



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak, Al-Asad To Meet Before Amman Summit

PM1001101390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 8 Jan 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Asad-Mubarak Meeting Before Arab Cooperation Council Summit"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the expected summit meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will take place before President Mubarak attends the next summit conference of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] scheduled to be held in the Jordanian capital Amman in mid-February on the occasion of the ACC anniversary which falls on 16 February, and that contacts are under way between Cairo and Damascus to set a date and agree on a venue for the summit.

Informed sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the summit meeting will be preceded by the first meeting of the Egyptian-Syrian joint committee, which will consider fields of cooperation between the two countries and agree on the topics to be discussed by Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad. That first meeting will be held in Cairo under the co-chairmanship of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The latter received an invitation to visit Cairo from Dr Sidqi when he was in Damascus.

The same sources say that bilateral cooperation between the two countries began returning to normal after the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

'Arafat To Discuss Peace Process With Mubarak

TA0901155990 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jan 90
p 1, 11

[Exclusive AL-QUDS report]

[Excerpt] Cairo—It is expected that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, on a short visit to Egypt. During the visit he will hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak aimed at consultation and coordination between Egypt and the PLO, and will discuss ways of advancing the peace process in the Middle East.

The Egyptian-Palestinian talks fall within the framework of coordination of positions before the meeting of the foreign minister of Egypt and the secretary of state of the United States in Washington, in an effort to launch a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue under international auspices in Cairo as an initial step within the context of a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The talks will dwell on discussing the special means for upgrading the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis to serve the peace process. [passage omitted]

Arab Magreb Union Follow-Up Committee Meets

LD0901233490 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, A'ina al-Nar [January] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning in Tunis the joint meeting of the follow-up committee and the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) started to work out the preparations for the meetings of the council of AMU foreign ministers to be held in Tunis later.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of AMU affairs at the General People's Committee in Great Jamahiriya and the general registrars assigned with the AMU affairs in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania and members of the General Secretariat of the AMU.

Bendjedid Hears Report From Lebanon Committee

LD0901203290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Today, President Chadli Bendjedid received Mr Lakhdar Brahimi, representative of the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and assistant secretary general of the Arab League.

During this meeting at the Presidential Palace, Mr Brahimi presented President Chadli Bendjedid with a review of the situation in Lebanon and its links with the efforts of the higher Arab tripartite committee. They also talked about the possibilities for the future in the face of the obstacles which obstruct the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Criticizes U.S., Baker Plan

JN0901193890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT
9 Jan 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Jan (WAKH)—A prominent Palestinian official has criticized the U.S. Administration's efforts to reach a settlement in the Middle East, describing these efforts as one-sided and that they represent only one party, Israel.

PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi said that the United States and Israel are seeking a one-sided political settlement that conflicts with any mathematical equation.

In a statement to WAKH in Baghdad, Qaddumi said that the failing attempts to convene the tripartite meeting

among the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers in accordance with Baker's plan this month is plain evidence of the failure of the U.S. attempts to make the region submit to its will and accept its capitulatory schemes.

Qaddumi emphasized that the PLO does not pin any hopes on such meetings. He added: However, we must point out now that Egypt is strenuously seeking to expedite the peace process in the midst of this sea that is raging as a result of Israeli policy.

Qaddumi arrived in Baghdad on 7 January on an official visit to Iraq, the first in his capacity as foreign minister of the state of Palestine. He held talks yesterday with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealing with the situation in the Arab region and developments in the Palestinian cause.

Qaddumi ruled out the possibility of the U.S. Administration attaining any positive results so long as it continues to ignore the Palestinians as one side of the equation.

Qaddumi said: If the United States and Israel continue to follow this policy, they will get no tangible results. On the contrary, they will reap frustration and failure and will find no one to work with them to reach such a settlement that was acknowledged by the international community and all of whose conditions were ignored by only the United States and Israel. [sentence as received]

Qaddumi said that the plan formulated by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker contains all the guarantees Israel wants while excluding the minimum Palestinian rights and completely ignoring the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative.

Qaddumi added that Baker's plan was adopted to give Israel what it wants and to ensure that the dialogue would only deal with one point, that of the elections proposed by Shamir.

Qaddumi said that the purpose of the meeting among the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers, as stipulated by the fifth point of Baker's plan—in an ambiguous manner but whose meaning is clear—is to (?select) the names of the Palestinian delegation. Qaddumi said sarcastically: Perhaps he is waiting for the rain to fall. He reaffirmed that the Palestinian people would pursue their intifadah and that the world at large has recognized that the PLO, which was chosen by the Palestinian people, is their sole legitimate representative. Qaddumi added: If they want the equation to be completed, we are ready to make this meeting a four-sided one. This is what Egypt had called for. [passage omitted]

Jibril Rejects Lockerbie Accusation, Al-Fahum Plan

NC0901223790 Paris AFP in English 2154 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Beirut, Jan 9 (AFP)—Pro-Syrian Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril Tuesday accused the United States of falsely implicating him in the 1988 Lockerbie disaster in a bid to pressure Syria.

At a news conference, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) said the "U.S. campaign to implicate the PFLP-GC without proof" in the Lockerbie disaster, in which 270 people were killed, "in fact targets Syria." Mr. Jibril has been linked by the British press along with Iran to the December 1988 bomb attack that ripped apart a Pan Am Boeing in mid-air over Lockerbie, Scotland. He also rejected a proposal calling for groups hostile to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat to join the PLO mainstream.

Mr. Jibril said a call by Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), for anti-'Arafat groups to join the PLO mainstream in a bid to unify the Palestinian movement "was not serious."

"We are not ready, whatever the pressure, to begin a dialogue with Mr. 'Arafat until he makes a public self-criticism and recognises his errors and crimes towards the Palestinian cause," Mr. Jibril said.

The radical Palestinian leader, speaking to reporters at the Mar Ilyas refugee camp, said he had asked Syria about Mr. Fahum's plan, announced last week, "and they assured us they had not inspired this initiative."

Another PNSF group, Fatah-Intifadah, has also rejected the proposal, which has been welcomed by the PLO. The two other factions in the coalition, al-Sa'iqah and the Palestine Communist Party have not officially responded.

The PFLP-CG has boycotted the Palestine Liberation Organisation since 1982, and Mr. Jibril has developed close ties with Iran and its Lebanese allies.

Mr. Jibril charged that the United States was also "preventing a settlement in Lebanon, by supporting General Michel 'Awn," the Christian leader who refuses to recognise the Syrian-backed administration of President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

"But Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad knows that this is blackmail to force Syria to make concessions, including some regarding the PLFP-GC," he added.

In Damascus, George Habash, leader of the pro-Syrian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the three main PLO factions, backed Mr. Fahum's initiative and "all efforts to unify the Palestinian movement."

"It is sad that we cannot, in the shadow of the intifadah, face the Israeli enemy in unison," he said.

The intifadah is the Arabic term for the two-year old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fatah-Uprising Movement Scorns Al-Fahum's Plan

JN0901202890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] A news statement issued by the Central Committee of Fatah [the uprising] Movement at noon today described Al-Fahum's initiative that was reported by various news media as a personal initiative, that it was submitted to the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] and that it calls for national unity on the basis of international and Arab developments and their repercussions in the Palestinian arena. The statement said: We have paused to consider this proposal, have studied all its dimensions, and have reached the conclusion that we do not view these developments as compelling us to retract our position with respect to the principles of national action. Nor do we see any signs of a change in the attitude toward the policy that was originally the cause of the crisis from which Palestinian national action is suffering. The statement said that, in making the call for unity with that policy unchanged, the unity call will not lead to national unity but will rather jeopardize the region in general and the Palestinian intifadah in particular. It also stated that there is no justification for this call for unity based on that policy, which is still current. The statement set as a condition for responding to such a call that the policy that led the Palestinian cause to its present situation be retracted.

New U.S. Peace Proposal to PLO Criticized

TA0901153490 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jan 90 p 1

[By Muhammad Dalbah]

[Text] Washington—It has been learned that the United States has presented the PLO with a new plan for advancing the peace process which includes the following points:

First—Washington publicly affirms that the slogan of "peace in return for land" is the only basis for launching Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Second—Washington agrees that the PLO has the right to participate in the negotiations and choose its representatives according to these two conditions: This is to be done quietly without a big news media uproar implying that Israel has made concessions or has given in to PLO demands. Washington will announce that the selection of the delegates was made in agreement with the "Palestinian political movement," without alluding to the PLO.

Third—Israel does not have the right of veto over the Palestinian delegates provided that there is no prominent Palestinian among them from the PLO known for his positions or activities in support of acts of violence.

Fourth—Cairo will be consulted with regard to the selection of the Palestinian delegation.

Fifth—The foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel will hold preliminary meetings to review the list of names proposed by the PLO before announcing the names officially.

It has been learned that the PLO is still studying these proposals or the executive plan complementing Baker's plan.

Khalid al-Hasan had recently visited Washington, where he met with prominent figures from the U.S. intelligence agency and the National Security Council to discuss current developments.

The prevailing tendency in PLO circles is to call for an emergency meeting of the National Council in order to be acquainted with the recent U.S. moves and proposals.

Informed sources in Washington affirmed that Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev departed from their recent summit in Malta with the agreement on the necessity to extricate the Middle East crisis from the bottleneck.

These sources said that, for this purpose, the U.S. Administration has increased its consultations in the region to speed up the political steps, including the presentation of its new proposals to the PLO.

Egypt Informed of 4 Points

PM0901164590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Points To Boost Dialogue with Palestinians"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the U.S. Administration has informed Egypt of four important points concerning the present U.S. move to boost peace efforts, the convening of the tripartite meeting in Washington, and the initiation of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

The four points are:

- the possibility of forming the Palestinian delegation from Palestinian political forces influential in the Palestinian movement;
- the dialogue to broach the elections and coincide with the announcement of general principles for the peace process;
- continuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis at the same level and according to the progress achieved in the peace process;
- every progress in the PLO's stances to be met by positive U.S. steps.

'Arafat on Peace Initiative, Israeli Practices

NC0901222990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat has emphasized that there can be no peace other than the Palestinian peace, no solution other than the Palestinian solution, and no road other than the Palestinian road.

In a speech he delivered at an Egyptian Labor Federation ceremony tonight on the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, 'Arafat said that the PLO is conducting negotiations from a position of strength. Citing an example in this respect, he said that modern revolutions have held negotiations: The Algerian revolution, the Vietnamese people's revolution, and the Namibian people's revolution have all negotiated with their adversaries.

'Arafat stressed that he is still carrying the olive branch that is protected by the Palestinian rifle.

In his speech, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat called for bolstering the Palestinian intifadah so that it might continue. He affirmed that the intifadah is neither without roots nor a satanic plant but that it is an accumulation of a 25-year revolutionary struggle during which Palestinian blood has not stopped flowing for a single moment.

'Arafat said that over 1,000 martyrs have become victims during the intifadah and that over 60 percent of these martyrs and detainees hail from the Palestinian working class. He added: "Our losses amount to \$2.3 billion. This means that we are losing \$100 million a month. This is according to Israeli statistics. As for their losses, according to their statistics, these amount to \$5.9 billion."

'Arafat said that the intifadah did not erupt because of poverty. During the 2 years of the intifadah, 55,000 to 56,000 people have been wounded, 6,500 have been handicapped, and 5,200 women have miscarried.

'Arafat said that he offers the Israelis the reconciliation [sulh] of the brave and that the peace initiative he declared at the United Nations in 1974 and repeated in 1988 still stands.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian initiative has been supported by the EEC, the Nonaligned summit, the Islamic states' summit, and the United Nations in Resolution 176 in 1988 as well as by the Scandinavian states, China, and Japan, in addition to Canada and Australia, who voted against Israel for the first time. He said this initiative did not stem from vanity but from strength.

'Arafat also pointed to Israel's decision not to celebrate the Christmas holidays, which meant a loss of \$900 million because Christian ceremonies for pilgrims were not held.

'Arafat said that Israel is using poisonous gas bombs against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. This has been corroborated by a U.S.-Israeli medical team.

He pointed out that miscarriages occurred because of the chemical war Israel is launching. This means that they are pursuing and fighting the fetuses. These are crimes of murder.

'Arafat said that since the eruption of the intifadah, Israel has arrested approximately 66,000 Palestinians. He pointed in this respect to the progressive Israeli journalists' admission that the Ansar [detention] camps No 2 and 3 are worse than the Nazi camps.

He said that Gaza is starving and that after Israel's expropriation of 200 square km of the Gaza sector's total area of 340 square km, the population density is now more than four people per square meter.

'Arafat said that the intifadah will continue until the Palestinian flag is flown over Jerusalem. He said that this intifadah has been the longest revolution in the modern era.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo tonight on a short visit to Egypt to participate in the Palestinian seminar which began yesterday on the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the 2d anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

NC0701075590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT
6 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the great change which the world is witnessing is a result of a great accumulation of problems. Several parts of the world, he said, are still experiencing this process of accumulation which will inevitably lead to a qualitative change.

In an interview published in the 7 January issue of AL-AHRAM, 'Arafat said that the world is no longer governed by military power balances but by popular movements, which have become a distinguishing feature of the current stage.

The Palestinian president explained that in the midst of this atmosphere the Palestinian people began their heroic intifadah, which is a result of a long accumulation of revolutionary struggles against Israeli imperialism and occupation.

'Arafat called for the priorities of Arab action at the beginning of the 1990's to be centered on supporting and backing the Palestinian people's intifadah and their struggle to gain national independence. He also called for a brave Arab stand in support of the intifadah, saying that the Palestinian issue is the most essential of the Arab nation's issues and the crux of the Middle East problem.

President 'Arafat said that the Arab nation's use of its huge economic resources and its international economic relations in favor of the Palestinian rights will definitely accelerate the Palestinian people's attainment of their freedom and national independence. This is because economic considerations can influence political decisions, he asserted.

'Arafat stressed that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state will be a main element of stability in the Middle East, because the state of Palestine will become an important center for democracy and scientific progress in the Arab world.

The Palestinian president added that if the Arabs' main wealth is their scientific human cadres, the Palestinian people, even by Israel's testimony, enjoy the highest rate of university graduates with advanced scientific qualifications.

'Arafat called on the Arab nation to unify its stand. He stressed that the establishment of a Palestinian state would put an end to Israel's dream of expanding from the Nile to the Euphrates, indicating that a map of this Israeli dream is inscribed on the Israeli currency, the "agora."

President 'Arafat stressed that the new situation in international relations gives the Arabs a chance to obtain national rights for the Palestinian people and to end the Israeli occupation, provided that they know how to deal with this international situation and its intricacies.

'Arafat said that the Palestinian people's resistance to occupation is an indivisible part of the universal struggle against oppression, imperialism, and dictatorship.

He called on the Arabs to take into consideration Europe's strength in the 1990's: a united Europe with great economic, political, and scientific power; a Europe consisting of both its eastern and its western parts.

'Arafat also called on the Arabs to take into account the strength of the Japanese giant, its multilateral relationship with China and western Asia, and the expected developments in these countries.

Concluding, 'Arafat said that our present Arab generation will be harshly brought to account by the coming generations if it does not behave correctly and act quickly in all directions to keep pace with the age, times, developments, and changes. He indicated that Israel, which is sitting on Arab ground, separates the two wings of the Arab nation and is unsheathing all kinds of challenges in its face.

'Arafat Comments on Weizman Affair, Sudan Ties
PM1001095390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 4 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Khartoum: The World Will Shortly Recognize Our Existence on Geographical Map"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau, news agencies—Following his meeting yesterday with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat pointed once again to the existence of many obstacles in the way of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue due to the intransigent Israeli position.

'Arafat said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position toward one member of his government—Science Minister Ezer Weizman—exposes the rigid and hard-line position obstructing the peace process and also confirms Israel's determination to continue to usurp the Palestinian people's freedom and occupy their territories, as well as its leaders' determination to continue their crimes and repression against Palestinian women and children in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian president described Shamir's position toward the Israeli science minister as exposing the dimensions of the Israeli position, which rejects any peace step.

The second round of talks between Lt Gen al-Bashir and the Palestinian president was held yesterday and lasted nearly 2 hours.

'Arafat said that the talks were successful and dealt with a number of bilateral issues concerning the strengthening of Sudanese-Palestinian relations as well as the important issues at the local, Arab, and international levels.

The Palestinian president added that the talks focused on the need to support the Palestinian people's intifadah.

He pointed out that it was agreed to continue and develop the cooperation and coordination to which we are accustomed between Palestine and Sudan.

Furthermore, before his meeting yesterday with the Arab ambassadors in Khartoum, President 'Arafat told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the world is convinced of the Palestinians' existence on the political map despite the conspiracies and predicaments, and it will shortly be convinced of our existence on the geographical map.

'Arafat stressed that a just peace will be achieved in the Middle East, but it will be the Palestinian peace which will be implemented by Palestinian hands—the same hands which will also proclaim their state on their usurped land, whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on Palestinian-Sudanese relations, President 'Arafat pointed to the role of the Sudanese strugglers in backing their Palestinian brothers. He said that he remembers the Sudanese strugglers who fought with him in Palestine in 1948 and those who were martyred owing to the lack of medical treatment as well as those who were martyred while crossing the desert.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] urged the Palestinians residing in Sudan to preserve and care for the staunch relationship with the Sudanese.

'Arafat left Khartoum later yesterday evening.

PLO's 'Abbas Interviewed on Weizman, Peace

TA0701124490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
7 Jan 90 p 19

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and "in charge of contacts with Israelis," by Ronit Antler; date and place not given—"Questions transferred to 'Abbas through a third person in Europe; answers given in writing"]

[Text] [Antler] 'Ezer Weizman is in Moscow. Have you any intentions of meeting him?

['Abbas] I have wanted to meet Weizman for a while now, mainly in view of his positive position concerning the peace process. His personal circumstances made such a meeting impossible. I believe these circumstances will not allow for such a meeting to be conducted during his Moscow visit.

[Antler] Rumors in Israel have it Israeli figures have expressed their willingness to meet with top PLO echelons and Yasir 'Arafat.

['Abbas] We welcome the idea. If it is true Israeli figures are willing to meet Palestinian officials, it is further proof of the great aspiration for peace of the Israeli public. Such meetings were conducted in the past with all the Israeli political spectrum in Budapest, Bucharest, Toledo, The Hague, Vienna, Brussels, Paris, London, New York, Milan, and Geneva. In the past, we have expressed our willingness to meet Israelis of all levels, because we believe only a dialogue will strengthen efforts to attain peace. This is the reason we were able to express this willingness through the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council.

[Antler] How do you refer to the reactions of Israeli institutions against figures who meet PLO officials?

['Abbas] Despite the difficulties created in August 1986 (when the Knesset passed the law banning meetings with the PLO), and despite the consequences of this resolution—which among other things, led to the arrest of peace activist Abie Nathan and the attempt to create a crisis over the Weizman affair—we believe such meetings could be useful. Those personalities who stood up against this resolution undoubtedly are very brave. They have acted in contradiction with this racial ban. This ban has no other purpose but to perpetuate the status quo. The aim of the lobby against peace meetings and dialogue only is to prevent any peace agreement from being reached. This campaign [last word in English] also has revealed the true intentions of the Israeli Government. It

is against peace, and is surrounding itself with iron walls through which only weapons and destruction could raise their head.

[Antler] Did Nabil al-Ramlawi report to you on his meeting with 'Ezer Weizman?

['Abbas] I do not believe Al-Ramlawi has officially met Weizman. There could have been an accidental meeting in some social gathering. If such a meeting indeed has taken place, it did not have specific political results.

[Antler] During the government crisis, it became apparent Israeli intelligence has you wiretapped everywhere, at all levels. Are you aware of that?

['Abbas] Israeli intelligence services are trying to show they know it all, that they are able to be everywhere. It is an act typical of secret services. It is not so difficult to wiretap telephone lines between Israel and anywhere in the world. Nonetheless, it became apparent in more than one crisis in Israel that its intelligence services are not at all different from services of other third world countries. The commotion the Weizman affair raised in Israel indicates the intelligence services not only operate against the Palestinian people, but also against peace-seeking Israelis. It is no secret an increasing number of Israelis on all levels are acting to advance the peace process. The Weizman affair has exposed all those who wish to foil the efforts toward peace.

[Antler] Have you also been using the service of Dr Ahmad Tibi to deliver messages to Israel?

['Abbas] We have received messages from high-ranking Israelis through a variety of channels, including Jews, Arabs, Europeans, and Americans. All of these messages refer to peace and the efforts to attain it. We appreciate the risks taken by those who delivered these messages.

[Antler] How do you evaluate the chances for peace in the coming year?

['Abbas] We believe 1990 will be a year of peace in the Middle East—a year of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, although the indications coming from the Israeli leadership are not all that encouraging. The previous year ended with two prominent events: One was suppression of the peace march in Jerusalem, in which dozens of Israelis, Europeans, and Americans had to get medical treatment, in addition to many Palestinians who were injured by the security forces' bullets. The second was the attempt to turn the Weizman affair into a lesson that whoever wants to talk peace would have to reconsider. Shamir staged this drama to foil efforts we have made in the approach to the New Year. Shamir wants to tell the world: "Peace is impossible and is forbidden."

[Antler] Is there room for optimism?

['Abbas] We will remain optimistic despite it all. This is because we believe in peace according to the recent resolutions made by the Palestinian National Council, as expressed in various international forums. We also

believe in the uprising; our intifadah in the occupied territories. Our optimism results from the understanding the Israeli peace camp is growing daily—which fills us with hope. The burden the Israelis have to shoulder is very heavy. They find it hard to express optimism in view of Shamir's policy, which only can lead to destruction and murder. The time has come for hope to take the place of pessimism in Israel. This would be "a necessary prelude to the birth of realism," and I am quoting Abba Eban from THE JERUSALEM POST on 3 January: "Our hands remain extended to all those aspiring for peace." [last quote not found in the original]

PLO Officials Assess 'Palestinian Peace March'

JN1001093890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 Jan 90 p 16

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] After 1 year of the "Palestinian peace march," Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker; Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member; 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member; and Saji Salamah, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have stressed that the PLO has not lost anything during this march and that it will continue to adhere to its firm position. They called for the continuation of the march.

'Azmi al-Khawajah, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed that there have been concessions with nothing in return, and that it is useless to continue to go around in a vicious circle. He said that it is necessary now to hold a PNC session to assess this stage and to confront U.S.-Israeli intransigence.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih denied that the Palestinian initiative has reached a dead end. He stressed its continuity in paving the way for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said that the PLO has not lost anything during the peace march, and that it still adopts firm stands toward the Palestinian people's right to pursue their struggle until the independent Palestinian state is established under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

PLO's Abu-Sharif Meets With UK's Waldegrave

JN0901190090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, met in London today with William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office.

A British Foreign Ministry spokesman said that during the meeting the two sides discussed the stance of the PLO on establishing peace in the Middle East and the Zionist stance on that issue, in addition to the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the practices of the Zionist authorities. The spokesman added that the British minister paid tribute to the PLO's courageous diplomacy and the initiatives it proposed in recent months.

Envoy to Saudi Arabia Defends 'Interim Solutions'

PM0901155890 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic
4 Jan 90 p 3

[Khalid Sa'id Bahakam report: "Liberation of Palestine Cannot Be Abandoned"]

[Text] Jeddah—Rafiq al-Natshah, ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Kingdom, has emphasized that Fatah has not and will not abandon the principle of liberating every inch of Palestinian territory. He also said that this principle is part of the essence of the Palestinian charter and the foundations of the movement's struggle structure.

He pointed out that the talk of political and interim solutions does not contravene Fatah's original position. He added that interim solutions are steps toward achieving the principal solutions, since tactics always serve strategy.

He said that our strategy is clear; namely, that every Jew must remain in his original homeland; that all the Jews in Palestine must return to their homes from which they were driven by poverty, famine, or massacres; and that the Palestinians—the people of the country—must return to their country, Palestine.

Furthermore, Al-Natshah praised the efforts exerted by the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in support of the Palestinian cause.

Algeria**FIS, PSD Leaders on Meeting With Bendjedid***LD0901114490 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audience Monday here Abbasi Madani and Abderrahmane Adjrid, respectively chairmen of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

Following this audience, Abbasi Maddani told the press that the present step is one of dialogue and our meeting today is the "first step in this way," and hopes to see this meeting followed by others. Abbasi denied that his party has at any time called for violence and blamed "colonialist France through its media" to be at the origin of "this propaganda."

He added that his party accepted coexistence, complementarity and the joining of efforts and alliance with other parties if this alliance is for the national interest.

On his turn, Abderrahmane Adjrid said he discovered the necessary understanding, encouragement and support from the president of the republic to the ongoing reforms in the country.

He added that "1990 will be a fundamental year for the edification of the economy and the materialization of democracy. It will also be the departure point of all Algerians towards work and development. The chairman of the Social Democratic Party who "condemned violence and intolerance which are unknown in the Algerian traditions" considers that all political parties have a great responsibility in this field and must all work so as to orient society towards the edification of future in good conditions.

Adjrid Defends Party's Integrity*PM1001091190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
9 Jan 90 pp 16-18*

[Interview with Social Democratic Party leader Abderrahman Adjrid by Salih Qallab in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qallab] Your party was the first to obtain legitimacy to operate openly. Why, especially as some parties existed on the scene before it?

[Adjrid] We announced the establishment of the Social Democratic Party on 2 March 1989, after a short preparatory period during which we prepared the required documents and files, including the rules and the working program in its main outlines. We preceded others in obtaining permission to operate openly because we submitted our application before all the other parties. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] But some say that your party is President Chadli Bendjedid's party, that it was he who advised you to hasten to announce it before the others. What truth is there in this?

[Adjrid] I personally have heard these claims, which were a surprise to me, and refuted them on many occasions. First it was said that Rabah Bitat (present parliament speaker), a historian, had established this party, but I refuted that. Then I heard that the party was established by the president of the Republic, but I denied that too. Then it was said that the party was established by the director of the president's office, so I denied it.

[Qallab] As your party's program is to a large extent similar to that of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN], do you not believe that it would have been more appropriate for you and some of the other parties to join the front and develop it from within, especially as you are agreed on its status and historic role in achieving independence?

[Adjrid] No. There is some confusion. The FLN derives its program from the national charters endorsed in 1976 and 1986, which emphasize the socialist option in Algeria and say that Algeria is socialist state. As for us, we do not advocate socialism. When we announced the establishment of our party on 2 March, I emphasized in a statement that this party is a center party. We also said that socialism and capitalism do not suit our country, nor do they accord with the mentality of the Algerian people. Therefore I emphasize that there is a big difference between our party and the FLN Party, since the latter is socialist, whereas ours is a center party and totally against socialism. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] You are an opposition party. What quarter do you oppose?

[Adjrid] We oppose the regime. Anyhow, there are hard-liners, moderates, and reformists in the FLN.

[Qallab] Who are the reformists in the FLN?

[Adjrid] The president of the Republic represents reformists in the FLN and the regime, and we support him and agree with his ideas.

Socialist Forces Leader Holds News Conference*LD0901231190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[News conference by Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, with unidentified correspondents in Algiers on 9 January—recorded]

[Text] Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, continues to deepen the concept of democracy and to widen its practice because of his belief that it is the best way to strengthen and consecrate the reforms in their constitutional structures in a pure way.

After receiving the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front and the Democratic Social Party yesterday, the president received Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed, official in charge of Socialist Forces Front, at the Presidential Palace today.

During the meeting, Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed told the president that he was very pleased to have the honor of meeting the man who presided over the new era of democracy and freedom of expression, and who was its leader. In reply, the president said: We have opened the door to all sincere sons of the nation. After his meeting with the president, Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed talked to the national press. He said:

[Correspondent] Mr Ait Ahmed, after a period in exile, which lasted for more than 23 years, you met the president today. What are your impressions at this historic moment?

[Ait Ahmed] Happiness, every happiness because the president stressed to us his wish to see the democratic course being established and widened and to see the freedom of expression and freedom to organize secured for all classes of the people within the framework of the sovereignty of law and respecting the law. We stressed our wish and will before everything to restore social peace, which is the basic condition for establishing democracy.

[Correspondent] Who stopped you from talking in Constantine?

[Ait Ahmed] This is a matter that is up to you journalists. You are the ones to find out who was behind this incident, which has put an end to a seminar, a seminar on history. In my opinion, history is a heritage that belongs to all Algerians.

[Correspondent] Who are the people behind that?

[Ait Ahmed] Frankly, I do not have any idea.

[Correspondent] Mr Ait Ahmed, this brings us to the phenomenon of violence and intolerance, about which there is a lot of talk now. Some people say that the political parties have exaggerated in their talk about it, to some extent.

[Ait Ahmed] Look, personally I stressed to the president today that the civilian state does not mean atheism. On the contrary, it stops the abuse and exploitation of religion for obtaining power. The civilian state aims at protecting the citizens from violence, and protects the law and the sovereignty of law. The state also protects citizens—male and female—because the situation of women is very bad in some Algerian towns and villages.

[Correspondent] In the civilian quarters of the society and in public opinion, they are saying that the current political parties exist only at the level of statements and communiqués in the national press, and they are absent from the grassroots level. What is your comment?

[Ait Ahmed] The only comment is that we have repeatedly stressed the necessity of enabling the parties, especially the party of which I am one of the officials, to practice their activities at the national level. This means that we should have centers and information organs so that we can carry out our activities.

[Correspondent] Mr Ait Ahmed, did you talk with the president about the issue of a constituent council, for which you called in your platform, the platform of the Socialist Forces Front?

[Ait Ahmed] The principles of our movement are well known. We have explained them repeatedly. Naturally, today we did not insist on a specific principle. It was only a first contact. In the future, we will be able to explain the political plan and the principled plan our movement follows.

[Correspondent] (Is this) within the framework of the February constitution?

[Ait Ahmed] We always stated that we respect the law. The sovereignty of law means that all the parties should respect the law, but this does not mean not to develop the issues and not to face the problems at the right time.

[Correspondent] Have you abandoned this idea of the constituent council?

[Ait Ahmed] Never.

[Correspondent] Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed, you talked about the reforms before your return. Today, after meeting the president and leader of the reforms, do you have more confidence in the future and in the success of these reforms now?

[Ait Ahmed] I have more confidence. I saw in the president a will to make this march a real march. We have shown our wish that this march should not be restricted only to the political field. It should reach the field of unemployment. We have approximately 2 million unemployed. It also should reach women. The deprived classes of people should participate. They should feel that the political democracy is not merely words.

[Correspondent] In the same context, what is your opinion of Mouloud Hamrouche's platform, and in his treatment of this crisis?

[Ait Ahmed] In fact, we did not have enough time to analyze this platform and give an opinion on it. The important thing is that all the issues should be presented by the media and newspapers, and that we all should have the means to express our opinions.

[Correspondent] How do you see the duty of the parties toward the essential issues, which are somewhat removed from the activities of the political parties, which take the form of festivities and have more of a

mass character than being present among the workers, peasants, youth, and unemployed, about whom you were talking?

[Ait Ahmed] This is just happening. This is starting now. The new era is just being born. We should have the necessary opportunities and means to go and explain to the people. Social peace means also restoring hope to those deprived of everything, the unemployed and those who live 15 to a house. If we have the opportunity to educate the public opinion, to go to the people and restore their hope, this is also a kind of establishing security.

[Correspondent] Did you find a solution between the first Socialist Forces Front and the second Socialist Forces Front since your return to Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] It is one movement; there is no second.

[Correspondent] Is it Dhiles' statements?

[Ait Ahmed] Yes, it is the statements of Dhiles and the essay published by L'HORIZON. What is your opinion on them?

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr Ait Ahmed. We hope to have another opportunity to talk to you.

FLN Condemns Incident at Constantine University

*LD0901223690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] On 7 January, there was an incident at Constantine University. A group of students tried to stop a seminar about democracy in the national movement. [passage omitted]

Cables and comments describe the incident as a blow-up of the democratic dialogue and as a fear of the truth. Some wonder about what is hidden behind the interference to cancel the seminar.

At its regular meeting yesterday, the National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau was informed about this incident. It condemned such behavior which contradicts the spirit of democracy, and it expressed its regret for such an incident at the university level, which is supposed to be—before any other place—a rostrum for intellectual dialogue and the exchange of opinions, as well as one of the bulwarks of the democratic course which is removed from any control.

The Political Bureau considered that these incidents, which contradict the spirit of democracy, are dangerous, and their danger increases if they are used for narrow partisan aims or for fanning the fire of other narrow prejudices and for striking the democratic tendencies which are flourishing in Algeria.

The Political Bureau called on all FLN activists and all citizens to condemn such practices and to be alert and

behave responsibly in order to secure the success of the political and economic reforms demanded by the situation of the nation.

In its turn, the Socialist Forces Front, FFS, condemned the fanaticism and the pressures which forced the stoppage of the seminar. In the same statement, the FFS said that such actions are the work of anti-democratic forces. The statement added that this is particularly true when we realize that such actions have repeatedly occurred in order to disturb the democratic discussion about the various issues which concern the university and the nation.

The FFS pointed out that the university is not a battlefield for confrontation and fanaticism, but it is a place for presenting and discussing the different views and opinions.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy expressed in a statement its solidarity with the democratic academics' movement in Constantine. The statement said that the rally salutes the efforts exerted by the democratic academics movement toward enriching the public and democratic dialogue.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy announced its solidarity with and standing by all the democrats who are trying to protect the freedom of expression.

Ghazali on Need To 'Adapt' Foreign Policy

*LD0601154590 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT
6 Jan 90*

[Text] Algiers 6 Jan 90, APS—Foreign Minister Ahmed Seyed Ghazali asserted to Channel 3 [Algiers Radio], during the program "Openness," that Algerian diplomacy should adapt itself to the new situation brought about by the deep transformations in the world. It should be radically different from the way it used be during the last 20 years, he added.

He pointedly said that before the eighties the superpowers used to pay a particular interest to the Third World. Such an interest was, however, merely a reflection of the ideological contradiction and competition between them. The foreign minister continued, saying we should not rely on that [interest] any longer; rich countries have abandoned Third World countries since the beginning of the world economic crisis, on the one hand, and they have been rather busy with their own problems, on the other.

Mr Ghazali continued: "Western Europe's solidarity with the transformations in East European countries is much stronger than the words of the political statements because there is a benefit; that is, a huge market of 400 million people opening up before West European countries, a matter which should lead the countries of the South to make a serious reevaluation and convince themselves that self-reliance is now, more than ever before, given such developments, a necessity."

In discussing the South-South issue, the foreign minister pointed out the difficulties facing such a dialogue and asserted that the latter has been nothing more than a subject for discussion until now. As far as Algeria is concerned Mr Ghazali pointed out that despite its efforts to diversify, 99 percent of its economic relations have been with the North, of which 90 percent are with the EEC and the rest with old East European countries; less than 3 percent have been with countries of the South.

As far as Algerian-Moroccan relations are concerned the foreign minister affirmed that they have witnessed a very positive development, particularly since the restoration of the diplomatic ties. [passage indistinct] The minister pointed out that before the Arab Maghreb Union, which is a recent development, was created many obstacles on the political level had to be overcome before the signing of the initial document. He pointedly asserted: We should have no illusions; although the Arab Maghreb Union's goal is unity, unity cannot, however, be achieved overnight. The Treaty of Rome, which created the EEC, was signed 32 years ago; still, Europe is not fully integrated. As far as the Arab Maghreb unity is concerned Mr Ghazali hoped that it will be brought about in less than 30 years, pointing out that "integration in some fields is being achieved quite fast."

Replying to a question on Western Sahara, the foreign minister pointed out that the problem will only be resolved by holding a referendum under the aegis of the United Nations and through the OAU [Organization for African Unity] good offices.

As far as the Lebanese problem is concerned, Mr Ghazali stated that Algeria has exerted great efforts for Lebanon's sake; as an Arab country it is a party concerned with the problem. About the Palestinian problem Mr Ghazali said: "Palestinians deserve more solidarity from the international community in the same way that solidarity was shown to European countries following the latest developments there. The Palestinian problem is also a just and humanitarian cause."

Egypt

Paper Praises U.S. 'Evenhanded' Position on Talks

NC1001094690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT
10 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has lauded the U.S. position vis-a-vis Israel's conditions for Palestinian participation in the planned tripartite dialogue to be held in Cairo. In its editorial today, the paper notes that Israeli newspapers have reported that the United States refused to give Israel any guarantees in this regard.

If these reports are true, AL-AHRAM says, then Washington has taken an evenhanded position and decided to refrain from interfering in matters directly concerning the two sides. This means that the United States does not

intend to pressure Israel to open a dialogue with the PLO without the latter accepting Israel's conditions or to pressure the Palestinians to accept the Israeli plan as the only topic to be discussed at a dialogue without any guarantees being given to Israel [as received] in this regard.

In other words, the paper says, Washington is coming closer to the concept of dialogue without conditions, a concept which is accepted by the Palestinian side and which Shamir used to propose in a deceptive manner.

Daily Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel on Peace

JN0801205890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
7 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Stop Placating Shamir"]

[Text] Considering its importance to world security and peace, it would be very strange if we let the Middle East peace process hinge on Mr Yitzhak Shamir's whims and his acceptance of a Palestinian delegation with which he will be kind enough to sit down for negotiations. It would also be strange to waste time on the assurances which Shamir demands from his allies in Washington to guarantee his right to reject any member of the Palestinian delegation who may have a direct, or indirect, link with the PLO.

What is even stranger than Shamir's stance is that of Washington, which is being very patient with him and seeks to appease him in every way so that he will be kind enough to accept elections in the occupied Palestinian territories. This in spite of the fact that Washington knows full well that the elections Shamir wants are only a means to waste time and achieve certain goals. In Shamir's sick mind he believes he will find someone to accept these elections. But, again, these elections will only be a waste of time as long as they do not fulfill the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations to regain their usurped rights and territories, primarily their right to self-determination like any other people on this planet.

If it is really sincere in its desire to achieve peace in one of the most sensitive parts of the world, we ask U.S. President George Bush's government to take a decisive stance against the Israeli prime minister. We ask it to convince Shamir that the unjust conditions which he sets for negotiating face-to-face with the Palestinian side—especially his precondition to approve the members of the delegation representing the people of Palestine—will make an unprecedented mockery of these negotiations. Negotiations must be free of any preconditions and all issues must be raised for discussion, including the right to self-determinations.

This is the only way can one be assured of the sincerity and seriousness of U.S. statements asserting the neutrality of the U.S. position to help settle the Middle East problem and put the peace process on a sound course.

'Abd-al-Majid Holds Talks With 'Arafat, Delegation
NC0901215890 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 9 (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, had talks here tonight with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation.

'Abdallah Hurani and Jamal al-Surani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, Bassam Abu-Sharif, 'Arafat's political adviser, Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah movement representative here, represented the Palestinian side.

The Egyptian side was represented by Ambassadors 'Amr Musa, Foreign Ministry Conferences Department director, and Ihab Wahbah, Arab Department director at the Ministry, and Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and Foreign Minister's Office director.

Speaking after the session, 'Arafat said these talks are considered a continuation of an exchange of consultations on moving the peace process in the region forward.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reported the idea of the tripartite meeting, proposed to be convened among the foreign ministers of Egypt, America and Israel, as still floating.

However, it has to be well-prepared to ensure success. We cannot go to a meeting whose result will be failure—we are keen on success of this meeting and initiation of dialogue, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also praised the positive role of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its leadership in moving the peace process forward.

Israel has to respond to these efforts, he said.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 2100 GMT on 9 January adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak will receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow morning. President 'Arafat arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the final session of the Egyptian-Palestinian seminar held by the General Federation of Egyptian Labor Unions and the General Federation of Palestinian Workers to mark the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian revolution."

[Paris AFP in English at 2157 GMT on 9 January adds: "In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said after holding talks with Mr. 'Arafat that the Washington meeting had to be "carefully prepared" so that "it does not end in failure. Egypt wants the meeting to be successful and the dialogue to begin," Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid added, calling on Israel to "cooperate for peace."]

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Arrives in Cairo 8 Jan
NC0801103090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, arrived in Cairo this morning. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi was at the head of the welcoming party at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0801121590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1141 GMT
8 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this afternoon. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi also attended the meeting, at which promoting bilateral cooperation in all fields and important political issues on the international and Arab levels were discussed.

Sidqi, Shaykh Sa'd Comment

NC0901141590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, said that problems in the Gulf region were reviewed and regional and international issues of interest to Egypt and Kuwait were discussed during the Egyptian-Kuwaiti talks held at the cabinet premises this morning.

Following the talks, which lasted for approximately 2 hours, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said views were exchanged on the steps and measures that must be taken to present a unified Arab stand toward international changes, particularly the developments in Eastern Europe and the expected changes in Europe that would result from the establishment of the single European market. He praised the cordial spirit that prevailed during the talks and the identity of views on the various issues discussed.

Replying to a question on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent peace initiative, Shaykh Sa'd expressed the hope that Iran would respond to this peaceful initiative for the sake of peace in the Gulf.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi praised the unique relations between Egypt and Kuwait, expressing his confidence that the Kuwaiti heir apparent's visit will boost the present and future good ties of cooperation. He also stressed that Egypt welcomes Kuwaiti investment.

The prime minister said that a study on joint projects in various fields is now under way. He added that bilateral relations do not need the establishment of a joint higher

committee in view of these relations' uninterrupted growth and in light of the directives of the two countries' leaders.

Dr Sidqi said that the talks dealt also with various aspects of cooperation, including the 1-billion-pound project to reclaim 400,000 feddans in Sinai to which Kuwait will contribute \$200 million as the foreign partner in the project, and other joint industrial projects in the field of rolling hot iron and steel and the production of raw materials used in synthetic fabrics. [passage omitted]

Further on Sidqi's Comments

NC0801172190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT
8 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stated that during their talks today, President Husni Mubarak and Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah discussed developments in the Arab world in general and in the Palestinian issue in particular as well as the ongoing contacts among the parties concerned to resolve this major issue.

In a statement following President Mubarak's meeting with the Kuwaiti heir apparent at the presidential office, Dr Sidqi said the talks also had dealt with international developments in both Eastern and Western Europe as well as the establishment of a unified Europe in 1992. The discussion also touched on some other current events, such as those in Romania, Panama, and on the need for inter-Arab cooperation in the face of the expected economic changes in Eastern and Western Europe.

Dr Sidqi added that the talks had centered on the importance of inter-Arab coordination and dialogue in order to face the new developments in Europe and to study their repercussions in the Arab world.

Regarding Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations, the prime minister said both countries wish to strengthen their bilateral ties and that this topic will be at the center of discussion during the Kuwaiti official's visit.

In response to a question regarding the Kuwaiti heir apparent's reference to the need to remove all obstacles in order to further promote bilateral cooperation, Dr Sidqi said: I have asked the Kuwaiti heir apparent to explain these obstacles. He called on investors, whether Arabs or otherwise, to explain their views on what they believe are obstacles, noting that they will be immediately cleared. He said President Mubarak had personally chaired two meetings of the General Investment Authority recently, and this gives a significant indication of Egypt's attaching great importance to investment and to clearing any obstacles or problems in this respect. Dr Sidqi added that Egypt welcomes any Egyptian, Arab, or foreign investments that could further strengthen the Egyptian economy.

Briefed on Military Production

NC1001124990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0931 GMT
10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Abu Za'bal, 10 Jan (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and his accompanying delegation this morning visited the Abu Za'bal Company for Engineering Industries (Military Factory 100), a bastion of heavy industry in Egypt. Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, escorted the Kuwaiti officials.

Dr Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production, briefed the Kuwaiti prime minister on Egyptian military products and the coordination among the military factories, the Arab Industrialization Organization [AIO], and the Ministry of Industry.

Dr al-Sayyid noted that 26 companies are involved in military production, adding that their combined production capacity totals 2 billion [Egyptian] pounds, 500 million pounds of which is the production capacity of the AIO. Al-Sayyid added that actual production is expected to reach 1.25 billion pounds this year, which is a 14-percent increase over last year's figure of 936 million. He pointed out that 75,000 people are working in military production, 18,000 of them at the AIO.

Al-Sayyid said production is proceeding according to plan and that the needs of the armed forces, brotherly Arab countries, and friendly countries for weapons and ammunition are being met. Companies involved in military production achieved a total surplus of 22 million pounds, he noted.

Following the briefing, the Kuwaiti prime minister and his delegation toured the permanent exhibition of the military production company. [passage omitted]

Iraqi National Assembly Delegation Arrives 7 Jan

NC0701094490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT
7 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—A delegation representing the Iraqi National Assembly arrived in Cairo this morning on a week's visit to Egypt, during which it will hold talks with representatives of the People's Assembly.

The delegation's visit comes within the framework of coordination among the officials of executive and legislative institutions in the Arab Cooperation Council states.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, is scheduled to arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Monday, to lead his country's delegation to the talks.

Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salih Arrives 8 Jan*NC0801211790 Cairo MENA in English 1800 GMT
8 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo Jan 8 (MENA)—Iraqi Parliament speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih arrived here today from Jordan on a few days visit to Egypt.

In statements upon arrival the Iraqi official said the visit comes at the invitation of Peoples Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub within the framework of bilateral parliamentary coordination.

It also falls within the context of preparing for the meeting of representatives of parliaments of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which is expected to be held in Baghdad late this month he added.

Dr. Mahjub who welcomed the guest at the airport said Salih's visit serves joint interest and leads to consolidating bilateral parliamentary relations.

Views Egypt's Ties With Syria, Libya*NC0901145490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi National Assembly speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that he will meet with President Husni Mubarak during his current visit to Egypt. He added that he will take this opportunity to convey the greetings of President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people. He will also convey their appreciation for the Egyptian leaders and people's support of Iraq, particularly during the Iraqi-Iranian war. He also said that the meeting will deal with important issues of common interest.

These remarks came in statements made by the Iraqi official to correspondents following his meeting here today with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on Arab solidarity and the positive development it has gained with the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and the resumption of normal relations with Libya, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker said: We have no objection to the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations and Egyptian-Libyan relations. He noted here Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statement which stressed that Iraq supports all Arab cooperation. He added: What we want is to see Egyptian-Iraqi relations develop and prosper in order to have Arab solidarity and effective joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

Libyan Planning Secretariat Official Arrives*NC0701161790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT
7 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—A delegation from the Libyan planning secretariat, led by Salih Hafidh al-Mayhub, under secretary of the Libyan Planning Ministry, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a week-long visit.

During the visit, cooperation between the two countries in agriculture, industry, maritime resources, and joint ventures, as well as cooperation between the Egyptian and Libyan planning institutes, will be discussed.

Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Planning, is expected to arrive in Cairo in the next few days to meet with Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister.

Syrian Industry Official on Economic Cooperation*JN0901172690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
8 Jan 90 p 11*

[Text] 'Abd-al-Hamid Malkani, head of the Syrian chambers of industry, has said that Syria's doors are open to Egyptian investment and that Syria's labor market needs Egyptian workers who have trained in the industrial and agricultural fields.

Upon his arrival at the Cairo international airport yesterday to attend a 2-day seminar of heads of Arab chambers of commerce, agriculture, and industry to be held tomorrow, Tuesday, he said that during the seminar, he would meet with Egyptian officials from the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Industry, the investment authority, and the general authority of fairs to discuss ways to achieve economic integration between Egypt and Syria and to hold two fairs for Egyptian industries in both Damascus and Cairo.

Editorial Views Weizman Episode, Peace Prospects*JN0601191090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
5 Jan 89 p 3*

[Editorial: "Shamir's Blackmail and Washington's Responsibility"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir is woefully wrong to think that he can keep swimming against the tide and survive the winds of change sweeping through the world—the change for peace, security, stability, human rights, independence and freedom.

Shamir is likewise mistaken to imagine that Science Minister Weizman's dismissal and reinstatement for his alleged PLO contacts will bring the peace process to a halt.

Shamir may make whatever decision he pleases: We have no business meddling in a strictly domestic Israeli affair. However, linking the decision to sack Weizman from the cabinet with the minister's assumed contacts with the PLO is not exactly a local Israeli concern.

Our sense is that the crisis contrived by Shamir, which ended by his reversing the dismissal decision and suspending Weizman's membership in the policymaking Inner Cabinet, is bound to alarm whoever cares for Middle East peace. The episode is symptomatic of Shamir's determination to continue to set his face against peace in the region.

It may be that Shamir sought from the fabrication of the crisis to, among other things, expose the weakness of the Labor Party, his major partners in the coalition. Nonetheless, Shamir's message to all the capitals concerned with the Middle East peace process, not least Washington, is that he is hell-bent to exclude the PLO from the peace process.

The 18-month suspension of Weizman's membership in Israel's Inner Cabinet is a clear message of intimidation to any Israeli contemplating contacts with PLO members.

One cannot but be dismayed by the impact that such stubborn behavior may have on the forthcoming meeting in Washington of the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel to prepare the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

We sense that peace prospects in the region will be subject to how far Washington will acquiesce to Shamir's blackmail. Only time will tell whether the United States is serious in pursuing peace. The United States can advance the cause of peace by promoting the Baker plan and a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

We also sense that peace prospects in the region will be subject to how far the PLO's moderates will hold out against Shamir's attempt to drive them to despair and thus tip the balance in favor of Palestinian extremists and grandstanders.

We have no doubt that, with the intifadah in its 3d year, the Palestinian people will continue to hold their ground and will only cease their struggle after they discern the outlines of a comprehensive, even-handed peace settlement based on UN resolutions—a solution that assures them of their inalienable, national, and legitimate rights.

Foreign Ministry Source Comments on Blue Nile Dams
NC0901185090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Commenting on reports today to the effect that foreign engineers have built dams on the Blue Nile, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that Egypt is closely following the developments in the situation in that region. The responsible source added

that all sides have common vital interests in the region, and Egypt hopes that these interests will not be harmed.

Mauritania

Loan Agreement Signed With Arab Monetary Fund
AB2912213189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The director general and board chairman of the Arab Monetary Board, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday, continues his visit. This morning he signed a loan agreement for \$27 million, or more than 2 billion ouguiyas with the finance minister. The money will be used to support the economic recovery program adopted by the government. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Tour of Regional Countries
AB0201195890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The minister of civil service, administrative training, labor, youth and sports, Mohamed Ould Haimer, returned to Nouakchott today. The minister had delivered a message from Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] and head of state, to General Moussa Traore, Malian head of state; Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of The Gambia; Ali Saibou, president of Niger; Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau; and Joseph Momoh, head of state of Sierra Leone.

Extraordinary Cabinet Session Adopts 1990 Budget
AB2912194289 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 1430 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] On 28 December, the Cabinet held an extraordinary session chaired by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. The Cabinet approved the finance bill for the 1990 fiscal year and the consolidated investment budget. The finance bill is in keeping with the overall economic situation, and it is characterized by the implementation of structural measures aimed at achieving the adjustment of all productive sectors and a 3.5 percent growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP]. The guidelines of this 1990 budget include the continuation of a cautious expenditures policy, improvement in the allocation of current and capital expenditures, and more tax reform. Budget revenues will increase from 22.8 percent of the GDP in 1989 to 23.2, while expenditures will remain the same: 20 percent of the GDP. The surplus will be used mainly to finance the huge external debt and about 10 percent of the investment budget.

Concerning revenues, the new internal tax measures involve a review of stamp fees on birth, marriage, and

death certificates, and maritime transport contracts, as well as road traffic taxes and real estate advertising fees. The 3-year customs duty review, and the review of the investment code is characterized by the following taxation: use of various rates on specific equipment and spare parts, raw materials, low rates on the determination of an actual protective rate for finished products. The objective of these measures is to encourage activities that help develop local raw materials, generate greater added value, and achieve an average rate of protection close to 40 percent. Another objective is to fight against tax evasion through the reduction of fraud. The 1990 general budget revenues and expenditures stand at 22,110,968,550 ouguiyas. The state's consolidated investment budget and the schedule of public enterprises' financial operations for 1990 have been included in the finance bill. Thus, the overall amount of the consolidated investment budget stands at 14,896,000,000 ouguiyas, including that of the National Industrial and Mining Company with 1,363,000,000 ouguiyas.

This public investment program is in line with the objectives of the economic recovery plan aimed at strengthening the foundation for economic growth. The sector breakdown reflects the priorities adopted: rural development, 30.1 percent; industrial development, 14.7 percent; territorial development, 27.4 percent; human resources 14.6 percent; and miscellaneous, 3.5 percent.

Sudan

Official Announces Al-Mahdi Under House Arrest

EA1001160690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and member of the Security and Operations Committee, has stated that within the framework of the celebrations attending the country's glorious independence anniversary, and the efforts the revolution was making to unify the internal front, and on the basis of the revolution's conviction that national unity will be achieved, this being one of the cornerstones of national construction in a united Sudan—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been moved from the place of his detention to his home, where he will be under house arrest.

Moreover, Sid Ahmad al-Husayn [foreign minister under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi] has been released.

Council Decides on Release

NC1001114590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT
10 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation decided this morning to release former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi from the (Cooper) prison and place

him under house arrest [wad'ih tahta al-tahaffuz]. The decision was made on the 34th anniversary of Sudan's independence.

Broad Political Consensus Against Junta Reported

AB2912152589 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT
29 Dec 89

[By Michel Trichet]

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 29 (AFP)—Strangely silent groups of university students gather at the campus here, attentively reading the wall posters full of political argument put up by the student bodies affiliated to Sudan's wide variety of now banned political parties.

The undergraduates are still stunned by the police slaying of two of their number during an anti-government demonstration three weeks ago.

But the military junta which seized power on June 30 under General 'Umar al-Bashir has not interfered with campus autonomy, where the wall papers are all that is left of the freedom of political expression voice by Sudan's lively and varied press, also banned now.

"The powers that be have decided to let controversy be aired freely in the vacuum of the campuses so as to avoid having the students tempted to spread outside," a lecturer confided.

Communists, Ba'thists, Nasirites, supporters of the Ummah Party of ousted Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, followers of the Democratic Unionists of Muhammad al-Mirghani, all take the regime to task for its repression—the two student killings, the hanging of respected young businessman Magdi Mahgoub [name as received] for possessing foreign currency, the death sentence on Maahoun el Hussei [name as received] for leading a strike of doctors in November, the growing number of jailings for political reasons.

The junta's sole defence on campus comes from the student association attached to the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, echoing the line taken by the three government newspapers that there is a communist plot afoot.

The Front students took all 40 seats in this month's student council poll, but fundamentalists actually account for less than 30 percent of the undergraduate body.

Whether junta members belong to the front or not is no longer in question. The front is the only party to have given the junta its allegiance, while at the same time it refused in October to sign a charter for a national democratic alliance supported by almost all the other political parties and 51 trade unions, which are also officially banned.

The charter, prepared by the clandestine opposition, maps out a program of resistance, and the parties and

unions are circulating many leaflets to drum up support for a campaign of civil disobedience.

The tracts give long lists of people arrested for their opposition to the military rulers. One said 138 people—doctors, engineers, teachers technicians, workers—were detained after the doctors' strike, which on past showing was supposed to be the prelude to a general strike. In total, 1,500 people are said to be held without trial, including al-Mahdi and communist leader Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud.

The pamphlets criticize the sackings, without severance pay, of hundreds of civil servants, including government service doctors and engineers, and army and police officers, and their replacement by fundamentalists.

Two significant leaflets come from "free democratic patriotic officers" stating their adhesion to the alliance charter and from a collective of police officers denouncing the sackings.

There are persistent rumors that a 'council of 40' has been formed by some junta members with major figures from the Islamic Front to constitute the real decision-making body at the center of power.

The 15 men on the formal Revolutionary Command Council are generally held to lack the training and political and administrative qualifications needed to wield power properly.

That Front Secretary-General Hasan al-Turabi was among those jailed when the coup took place is no contradiction. Much more a politician than a putschist, he was probably swept aside by the more radical wing of his party, with which he differed on tactics rather than on ideology. He has since been let out of jail and placed under house arrest.

In its early days, many thought the junta would not last long, but now nobody is predicting its fall in the short term, since it looks capable of staying in place despite the broad political consensus against it.

To its detractors, it retorts that they are "nostalgic for the days of corruption". The junta presents itself as the cleanser of society, austere and rigorous as demanded by an intransigent Islam.

And recent statements by junta officials raise the spectre of a return to the full harshness of the sharia, the strict Islamic laws which are at the heart of Sudan's six-year civil war, pitting largely Christian and animist southerners against the predominantly Arab Moslem north.

Amputations of limbs for theft have not been reintroduced, but flogging for drinking alcohol is being widely practiced once more.

Egyptian Role in Government-Rebel Dialogue Viewed

*PM1001100190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 6 Jan 90 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Makes Contacts With Khartoum and Garang Movement To Discuss Possibility of Hosting Next Round of Negotiations"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed Egyptian contacts have been made with the Sudanese Government and the Garang movement to discuss conducting a new round of negotiations between the two early this year in Cairo.

The sources emphasized the contacts focused on agreeing to an agenda for the negotiations in the light of the experiences and results of the 1 December round of talks in Nairobi. The sources added Egypt will not decide to send invitations for the new round before there is a minimum guarantee it would succeed in progressing toward a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan problem.

It is worth mentioning Egypt was not isolated from the atmosphere of the Nairobi negotiations sponsored by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Sources confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt contributed to preparation of the Nairobi negotiations at the request of former President Carter and contacted the two sides and the Ethiopian and Kenyan Governments, urging them to exert efforts to ensure the negotiations' success. Immediately after the Nairobi round ended, Egypt started to contact the two sides to explore possibly continuing the necessary efforts for achieving a peaceful solution.

Diplomatic sources affirm Egypt received positive answers to the questions it posed to both sides. The sources pointed out the two sides have confidence in Egyptian policy and in President Mubarak—which provides good prospects for Egypt's mediation.

But the important question being raised by some observers in Cairo concerns the starting point of that mediation and whether the results of the Nairobi round provide a basis for the Egyptian political move. This question is linked to the observers' varying assessments of the results of that round.

Informed sources in Cairo have indicated the disputed issues at the Nairobi negotiations are the most complicated, and it is not possible to reach quick agreements on them. This is why Egypt currently is conducting an extensive study of the two sides' position on these issues, which are:

The September 1983 laws known as the shari'a laws: The Garang movement is demanding their immediate abolition, whereas the present Sudanese Government sees the federal rule system proposed by the national dialogue

conference conducted in Khartoum in October as providing a solution to the problem, because it allows every region to exempt itself from any laws and draw up alternatives;

The military agreements concluded between Sudan and other Arab states: The Garang movement also is demanding their abolition, whereas the present government sees these agreements as aimed at protecting Sudanese national security, not against anyone inside the country;

The political system in Sudan: The Garang movement is demanding formation of a new government in which the parties participate, abolition of the state of emergency, and disbandment of the Sudanese Armed Forces and formation of new forces which would include the southern army. President al-Bashir's government rejects these demands and believes there is a need to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem of the south before discussing the nature of the political system.

Official circles in Cairo consider these disputed issues very difficult to resolve by means of compromise, but not impossible. They say convening a constitutional conference in Khartoum as soon as possible could be suitable, provided there is good preparation for it. The conference was agreed to at the Nairobi negotiations, and various groups, including the Garang movement, would attend to draw up the permanent constitution. Preparation includes determining whether it is convenient to conduct a new round of negotiations in Cairo before agreeing on a date for the constitutional conference.

Official Assures 'Successful' Talks in Cairo

EA0701191790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Martin Malwal Arop, member of the Revolution Command Council, has assured the efforts by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who also is current chairman of the OAU, will be crowned by a round of successful negotiations between the government and the Garang movement in the Egyptian capital. In a statement to SUNA, he added the relations that link President Mubarak with the Sudanese Government, with his present position as OAU chairman and his knowledge of the situation in Sudan, will help to make this round of talks successful. He did not indicate when they would take place.

Concerning steps taken by the central government to ensure food supplies reach the southern region's emigrants in Kurdufan region, Col Martin stated the regional government, cooperating with the Ministry of Relief, would provide food for the region and steps taken regarding this would secure better living conditions for the southern regions's emigrants in Kurdufan.

Government Negotiator Comments on Nairobi Talks

PM0301162590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 30 Dec 89 p 6

[Interview with Dr Salah Muhammad Ibrahim, member of the delegation to the Nairobi talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, by Zayn al-'Abidin Ahmad Muhammad in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Muhammad] What are the main reasons that prevented achievement of the anticipated results and obstructed the negotiations? What is your assessment of the role played by former U.S. President Carter in these negotiations?

[Ibrahim] The talks stumbled mainly because when the government delegation arrived in Nairobi, it discovered former President Carter had listed the issues of the shari'a, the state of emergency, and the bilateral agreements as main topics on the agenda. The government delegation went there expecting the main issues for discussion would be those mentioned in the national dialogue conference's recommendations, especially because the delegation had received information, through official channels quoting Carter, that Garang's movement had agreed to a dialogue without any preconditions. Raising the issues of the shari'a, the state of emergency, and the agreements was tantamount to making preconditions and revived the old method of negotiation. I believe the national dialogue conference answered all questions regarding the main issues and completely changed all that.

I believe former President Carter liked the idea of raising the shari'a issue and, through it, tried to make some gain for the Garang movement and the West. That is why he included these points in the agenda. I say the mere fact the shari'a was on the agenda was a surprise to us. [passage omitted]

Another point is, as it arrived in Nairobi, the government delegation received information the movement had not gone there to sign a peace agreement. So the impression was the movement was trying to make political and media gains and win the sympathy and support of the West by raising the shari'a issue. It was intransigent on that point without any clear justification, although some members of the movement's delegation did admit the question of the shari'a was not the cause of the war.

[Muhammad] What about the second part of the question—your assessment of the role played by former U.S. President Carter?

[Ibrahim] We all know from the very beginning the Garang movement was against Carter's participation in the negotiations. That clearly annoyed him, because he hoped to play the same part he played in the Ethiopian-Eritrean negotiations. [passage omitted]

My assessment is Carter's role was balanced, except on the shari'a issue, on which he was not flexible. In fact, his

views on it were in favor more of the movement than of the government. He tried three drafts for the shari'a item, but the government's position was the same every time. Carter's view was the shari'a laws should be suspended for 3 months until the constitutional conference is conducted, but the government's view was such a step would leave a legal vacuum in the country and the present situation was the best possible. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] What about the question of the Army?

[Ibrahim] The movement made the impossible request the Army be rebuilt on a fifty-fifty basis between the Army and John Garang's movement. The government's view was Army absorption should proceed on principles, controls, and percentages, considering Sudan's geographic and demographic structure. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] How was the issue of the Sudanese-Egyptian and Sudanese-Libyan military agreements tackled, and what was the Sudanese delegation's position on that?

[Ibrahim] The government delegation did not discuss that matter much. It took the firm position it was a matter of sovereignty and could not be discussed in such negotiations. That point quickly was passed over. The government delegation refused to give the movement's delegation a chance to debate it. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] Based on your assessment of that round of talks, do see any possibility of a settlement in the future?

[Ibrahim] The understanding on both sides is there will be a next round of talks, but no date has been set. There is a conviction a solution only can be achieved through dialogue. I believe some progress has been made which, although in the general analysis it is minor, indicates there is something positive relating to certain points, and that alone is enough to facilitate more progress on other points in the next round. [passage omitted]

Famine Threatens 'Hundreds of Thousands' in South

AB2912133089 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT
29 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 29 (AFP)—Famine once again threatens hundreds of thousands in war-torn southern Sudan two months after the Junta in Khartoum, citing security reasons, halted the United Nations' relief flow.

From last May to October the U.N.-sponsored Operation Lifeline Sudan brought in some 110,000 tons of food and supplies to a population trapped between civil war and famine.

The operation had been launched last April to feed 2.5 million people after some 250,000 died of starvation the previous year.

But the Sudanese Government on November 3 ordered the indefinite suspension of relief flights into southern Sudan from Kenya and Uganda, after the bombing of

October 31 of a town controlled by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) by unidentified planes.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Khartoum said for the few months of peace during which operation Lifeline was allowed to proceed, international relief not only fed people but helped them plant grain for their herds under a special "emergency rehabilitation" program. They said if more crops were not sown immediately the entire program would be at stake, wiping out months of efforts and progress.

Relief officials stressed that without a durable peace, all humanitarian projects were in jeopardy.

Most appeared to have given up all hope for Operation Lifeline 2 which was to have extended the first program by the simultaneous distribution of food and the construction or repair of roads and bridges.

The prospects for peace or even a cease-fire between the government and rebel forces appeared dimmer than ever following the collapse earlier this month of talks in Nairobi between representatives of the junta and leaders of the SPLA.

Rebels are fighting the central government to establish a secular state to end the domination of the mainly Christian south by the Moslem majority in the north.

Throughout the month of December the junta, which receives aid from Libya and Iraq, has issued a series of communiques claiming victories in several provinces.

According to analysts in Khartoum, the victories—most involving the recapture of villages without great strategic interest—are less significant militarily than as a warning that the government might soon move to get rid of the presence of humanitarian groups.

In an ominous sign, a member of the junta recently charged that rebels were using Operation Lifeline to smuggle arms, ammunition and spare parts to south Sudan, a charge the rebels have denied.

The government also said a plane crash on December 21 that killed three members of the French medical aid group, "Medecins Sans Frontiers," was further reason to suspend relief operations.

The plane was hit by a missile shortly after taking off from the southern town of Aweil. The government has blamed the rebels for the shootdown, and rebels say the Sudanese Army was responsible.

A representative of "Medecins Sans Frontiers" in Khartoum said the group was planning to withdraw its team of six from Aweil, which is under Sudanese Army control, even before the disaster because of an increase in fighting in the region.

Aweil has tended to draw people fleeing combat zones, but now the same refugees are moving further north in a desperate search for food. There they risk being attacked by Arab tribes moving south for pasture lands and who seize women and children for slaves, following a age-old tradition.

Al-Bashir Talks With UN Official on 'Lifeline'

EA0501131690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 5 (SUNA)— The chairman of the Revolution Command Council General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir met here yesterday with the director of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the representative of the UN secretary general for Operation Lifeline Sudan, Mr Michael Priestly, [words indistinct] in the presence of the Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul.

Mr Priestly has outlined that the meeting discussed the progress of work at the second stage of the Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Official Says Ethiopia Needs Relief Operation

EA0501113890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Sudan has appealed to Ethiopia and the international community to provide food for the needy inside Ethiopia in operations similar to the Lifeline Operation in southern Sudan. This is necessary to stem the flow of people from Ethiopia to Sudan caused by famine in northern Ethiopia that resulted from this year's agricultural season failure.

Making the appeal, Brigadier Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, retired, commissioner of refugees, pointed out Sudan would allow food to be transported across its territory to the needy in Ethiopia. He expressed hope the efforts would be crowned with success, especially since the number of people affected in Ethiopia is estimated at about 8 million. He said if these efforts failed, the commission would have to coordinate with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations to draw up new (?emergency) regulations to limit the influx into Sudan.

According to the Commissioner for Refugees, it was estimated 3,000 people recently had entered Sudan. They entered the country for security reasons, not because of the famine, but some of them decided to take refuge in anticipation of the famine.

Command Council Member Departs for Chad

EA0501112190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Brigadier Pio Yukwan, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, heads a delegation of the national dialogue conference

that left this morning for Chad. The delegation also will visit Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast. [passage omitted]

Eastern Region To Be 'Model' for Federal System

EA0701214690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council political supervisor of the Eastern Region, has announced implementation of the federal system will begin this year. He added that the Eastern Region will be the model its application. His excellency said this during meetings with the masses of Port Sudan while inspecting various areas in the region.

Colonel Khalifah meanwhile issued a decree releasing all female prisoners in the Port Sudan prison, marking the country's celebration of its glorious independence day. [passage omitted]

Radio Details Census Measures, Holiday Closings

EA0901214190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The operation to count the people residing in the administrative district of the national capital begins this morning. It is being carried out within the framework of arrangements by the National Salvation Revolution aimed at total rehabilitation and reconstruction, to give Sudan order from within, and ensure the citizens receive their services and needs, in addition to enabling the leadership to discharge its responsibilities in taking necessary steps based on an understanding of the Sudanese society's needs.

In this respect, the commissioner of the national capital has ruled today, Tuesday, will be deemed a public holiday for all those working in the capital. The citizens are ordered to stay at home 0800-1700 to facilitate the counting operation. It also has been decided to close the capital's exits and entrances and the roads to vehicle and train traffic. Regarding the daily distribution of petroleum products, it was decided this would commence today at 1800.

Census Said 'Cover' for 'Major Police Operation'

AB0901215090 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Jan 9 (AFP)—Thousands of volunteers and civil servants were virtually the only people on the streets of the Sudanese capital Tuesday as a suddenly-announced census was carried out, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said. [passage omitted]

State television took the unusual step Tuesday of showing sport and light entertainment programmes for most of the day to encourage people to stay indoors as they had been ordered to do.

Analysts in Cairo Tuesday said that the census may be a cover for a major policing operation in Khartoum, where many leaflets have recently circulated denouncing the ruling junta and politically motivated arrests.

The leaflets were mainly issued by a clandestine National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which represents most of the political parties banned after the military coup of June 30 last year.

The NDA has allegedly called for a general strike and a popular uprising, to be coupled with a major offensive by rebels in south Sudan aimed at drawing government troops away from the north.

The junta only has the clear backing of Islamic fundamentalists. The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has been fighting to free mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan from Moslem domination by the north.

Several analysts in Egypt, which has a vital strategic interest in Sudan, noted Tuesday that the census proclamation came as SPLA rebels announced major victories in an offensive in eastern [as received] Equatoria Province.

Tuesday's census would give the authorities an occasion to seek out alleged "fifth columnists" loyal to Colonel John Garang's rebels, the analysts said.

Correction to Junta Said Planning Conflicts

AB0901100490

This correction pertains to the item titled "Junta Said Planning Conflicts With Countries," which was published in the 9 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 17:

Column two, only paragraph, last sentence: ...march on until the forces of injustice in Khartoum are destroyed or transformed. [sound of martial music]... (supplying dropped phrase).

Kuwait**Ministry Warns Against Discussing National Issues**

*LD0901133890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1231 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 9 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry Tuesday once more cautioned citizens assembling in diwanias [reception lounges] from discussing any concrete national issues and affirmed that legal action will be taken against violators, a ministry source said.

The source added that this procedure re-asserts a ministry statement last Dec 28 on assembling in diwanias to discuss certain issues, which contradicts the positive traditional concept of these diwanias.

He indicated that a citizen had called for a public assembly in his private diwaniya at Jahrah area of Kuwait yesterday, despite being cautioned against such a step, in violation of Law 5 for 1979 regarding public gatherings.

"To maintain law and order and in implementation of a decision by the Council of Ministers in this respect, the (Interior) Ministry took legal measures to prevent and disperse this assembly according to Article 11 of the said law, [words indistinct].

In conclusion, the Interior Ministry called on all citizens to cooperate with it and comply with state laws in this regard.

Urges Legal Use of 'Diwanias'

*LD0901154990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1240 GMT
28 Dec 89*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 28 (KUNA)—An authoritative source at the Interior Ministry Thursday said public invitations have been lately distributed to discuss certain topics in private diwanias.

The diwaniya is a living room usually located outside every house in Kuwait to receive guests or friends. Some citizens usually open their diwanias every night or on a certain day in the week where people gather to drink tea and coffee, play cards and exchange opinions and points of view through discussions of issues of mutual interest to Kuwaiti citizens.

The source did not disclose nature of the topics which have been discussed, but noted that the way of holding such meetings is far from the nature of the diwaniya gathering.

The ministry urged citizens to be aware and use the diwaniya in accordance with the law, the source said, adding owner of the diwaniya should not allow the usage of the diwaniya unlawfully.

The source also expressed hope that the citizens would cooperate with the ministry to maintain security and stability of Kuwait.

Bulgaria, Turkey Discuss Normalizing Relations

*LD0901162290 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1514 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jan (KUNA)—The foreign ministers of Turkey and Bulgaria, Mesut Yilmaz and Boiko Dimitrov, resumed their closed working session this afternoon in the Bayan Palace. The session included the two ministers and a few technical experts. According to sources of the two delegations, discussions now are focused on normalizing bilateral relations and on their future cooperation.

The sources told KUNA a meeting will be conducted next month in the Turkish capital of Ankara at deputy foreign ministers level to discuss outstanding questions relating to normalization of relations.

Regarding the state of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, the sources said the Turkish side considers the problem as having ended following the decision of the Bulgarian Government to grant Bulgarian Muslims their religious rights, the freedom to practice their religious rites and to choose their Islamic names without any restrictions. Other than that, it [the Turkish side] considers the issue an internal Bulgarian matter.

The sources said the joint communique that will be issued tonight will include these aspects.

The Bulgarian foreign minister is due to conduct a news conference tonight after the conclusion of the meeting.

Issue Communique

*LD0901204690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1910 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 9 (KUNA)—Turkey and Bulgaria have expressed desire to improve their relations on "a sound and mutually beneficial basis" following two rounds of talks here Tuesday [9 January] on their dispute over the rights of Turkish minority in Bulgaria. A joint press communique issued by foreign ministers of the two countries said they agreed to hold a further meeting to make better assessment of bilateral relations during the opening session of the open skies conference to be held in Ottawa 12-15 of next February.

The communique said the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Boyko Dimitrov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey A. Mesut Yilmaz met in Kuwait Tuesday, in the context of the good offices of H.H. [His Highness] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Jabir Al Sabah, the amir of Kuwait and chairman of the 5th Islamic summit, and in accordance with the reached agreement.

"In a frank and constructive spirit," the announcement said, "the two ministers made a detailed and comprehensive review of the current state of Bulgaro-Turkish relations and the future prospects."

"They have expressed their respective government's political will to improve their relations on a sound and mutually beneficial basis," the communique stated.

The two ministers agreed on the need of further talks to make a better assessment, the communique said, adding that they also agreed to hold a meeting with this purpose during the opening session of the open skies conference to be held in Ottawa on 12-15 February 1990.

The ministers expressed deep gratitude to H.H. the amir and the Government of Kuwait for the initiative they have taken and the excellent arrangements they have provided for the meeting.

PDRY

President Optimistic Over U.S. Relations

JN0601112290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT
6 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], has emphasized Arab support for the two parts of Yemen. He also expressed his belief this support will enhance the Yemeni unity state in the economic and political fields.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, President al-'Attas voiced confidence in the unity state's ability to carry out the tasks of progress and development to achieve security and stability in all of Yemen. Then the Yemeni unity state will become a basic element in the region's security and stability, and a source of cooperation among the brothers, he added. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the relations of his country with the United States, he said: The dialogue between the delegates of the two countries at the UN still is going on. We expect it will achieve positive results toward the restoration of diplomatic ties.

Nu'man Statement on Unification Process

EA0401225790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has said reunification could be applied to several issues before 30 November, while others would take more time. In a statement published by AL-KHALIJ yesterday, the chairman of the Council of Ministers said the unification process entailed profound political and economical reforms by both two parts. It also entailed tackling the issue of democracy and strengthening steps towards reform: this was what had been agreed upon by

the two parts. He added that bringing in a multiparty system and issuing a press law for both parts could be accomplished by 30 November. Thus all patriotic forces would be able to participate in the process, as well as the Yemen Socialist Party in the south and the General People's Congress in the north.

Saudi Arabia

Commission of Iraqi Oil Pipeline Celebrated

LD0901214790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources today celebrated the commissioning of the Iraqi oil pipeline which passes through Saudi territory, for which Aramco assumes responsibility for operation and maintenance according to an agreement between the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi Republic. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Military Leaders Continue Talks on Unity

EA0401071790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The expanded annual meeting of the general command of the Armed Forces ended today in Sanaa. For 3 days the meeting dealt with issues connected with assessment of the level of performance in the Armed Forces, stepping up development and modernization in the various fields of construction, and laying down a comprehensive working plan for the departments and units for the training year 1990.

The meeting also hailed the sincere efforts being made by the two political leaderships in the two parts of the homeland for serious and practical application of the contents of the historic Aden agreement, stressing the solidarity of the sons of the Armed Forces in cooperating positively with all the steps aimed at achieving the objective of reunifying Yemen, and supporting and securing all achievements in this direction.

The meeting expressed satisfaction with the results achieved toward bringing closer together and engendering cooperation and coordination between the armed forces and the security forces in the unified Yemeni homeland, and toward a total merger, creating a unified Yemeni army. The meeting praised the favorable results achieved by the meetings of commanders of the Armed Forces and security forces, and the meetings of the military and joint security committee in the capital of the unity state, Sanaa. It was stressed there is a need for more meetings and exchanges of visits between the officials in the military and security organs in the two parts of the homeland, which would strengthen efforts to

bring about a merger in the unificatory process by means of taking more advanced steps towards the establishment of the Yemeni unity state.

North, South Interior Ministries Discuss Merging

*JN0401194390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] An expanded meeting was conducted at the Interior Ministry today between officials of the two Interior Ministries in both parts of the homeland under the chairmanship of brothers Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, deputy interior minister and Standing Committee member, and Colonel Mutahhar Mut'ib Muslih, Central Committee member and deputy interior minister in the southern part of the homeland.

The conferees discussed results of the meetings of the brother experts in the departments affiliated with the two ministries, the steps taken on the way to merge the Interior Ministries in the two parts of the homeland, and the future developments regarding this. The conferees also discussed laying down common working plans and preparation of plans and studies for the unionist work of the unified interior ministry. An agreement also has been reached to continue the meetings between experts in the two ministries.

Brothers Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih and Colonel Mutahhar Mut'ib Muslih earlier had conducted a bilateral meeting in which they reviewed the steps carried out within the framework of the missions the two Interior Ministries were charged with in the wake of the historic Aden agreement and the unionist Sanaa meeting between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland.

Shamir: Reply to U.S. After Inner Cabinet Meets

TA1001114190 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in English*
1100 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning Israel's reply to the United States on the issue of the talks with Palestinians and Israel's request for safeguards will be sent only after a discussion in the Inner Cabinet. The prime minister was speaking at this morning's meeting of the Inner Cabinet, in reply to a demand from Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Jack Katzenell reports:

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi told the Inner Cabinet this morning: Israel's reply should not be decided by the unofficial forum of four—Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Premier Peres, Defense Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Arens. The proper forum is the Inner Cabinet, Levi said. Prime Minister Shamir assured him the reply would be approved only after a full discussion in the Inner Cabinet.

Levi said the peace initiative as it now exists bears no resemblance to the Israeli Government's original initiative. The present initiative comes from totally different sources, Levi said.

At this morning's meeting, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein briefed the ministers on the American reply to Israel's requests for assurances and guarantees. I am told, however, that Rubinstein did not make any disclosures that have not appeared already in the news media. [passage omitted]

Preparations Under Way for 'Favorable' Meeting

TA0901123190 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1105 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers encounter will take place. He made these remarks in the bedouin village of Basmat Tab'un. He further said Israel is interested in such an encounter and hopes it will produce favorable results. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports from Basmat Tab'un:

[Begin recording] [Dar] The prime minister was not surprised by the latest U.S. statement that a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and the United States is pointless unless it can promote negotiations toward peace.

[Shamir] I was not surprised, because I have known for a long time the U.S. secretary of state is most interested in conducting a meeting of the three foreign ministers, but he wants this meeting to produce positive results. He does not want to convene the meeting if he is not certain of its favorable outcome. We therefore are currently making preparations for such an encounter; these preparations will guarantee favorable results.

[Dar] In reply to a question as to whether the controversy between Israel and the Americans pertains to inclusion of East Jerusalem residents in the elections, Yitzhaq Shamir said:

[Shamir] This is mere speculation. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon on Obstacles to Talks With PLO

TA0901162190 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in English*
1100 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office says the United States is uneasy about giving any commitment to Israel that would exclude the PLO from Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Speaking to reporters this morning in Jerusalem, Yosi Ben-Aharon said there is no date set for the meeting of foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel with U.S. Secretary of State Baker. He said the chief obstacle to the meeting remains the gap between the Israeli and American positions regarding the PLO.

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] There is a problem of bridging the gaps between our perception of the way this initiative should develop, and that which the United States is receiving from the other side. And here, of course, the main obstacle is the PLO position to which we object strenuously and totally, and we are trying to make it absolutely clear to our friends in the United States that we are not seeking any kind of a cover, a screen, a fig leaf for indirect exchanges, contacts, or negotiations, with the PLO. We do not want the PLO involved in this process. And, if there is any chance of success of this process, it would be brought about only and until [as heard] the PLO is dealt out of the process. [end recording]

Peres: No Need To Change Mode of PLO Contacts

TA0901143090 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres believes there is no need to change the existing situation in which the United States maintains a dialogue with the PLO, of which we are aware, while we engage in a dialogue with the United States. He also said even though he would not have recommended the United States launch negotiations with the PLO, now that the dialogue is reaching its end [as heard] there is no point marching backwards. Mr Peres explained the PLO will be well advised not to harm the Palestinians who are prepared to negotiate elections in the territories with us. It is the right of the Palestinians from the territories to consult with whomever they want in the Arab world to provide themselves with an insurance policy, he said.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Peres was talking to U.S. congressmen.

Shamir-Rabin 'Personal Interests' Reviewed

TA0901133690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Jan 90 p 13

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Yitzhaq & Yitzhaq Are Laughing at the World"]

[Text] It is odd no one has wondered why Ezer Weizman was sentenced to 18 months away from the Inner Cabinet. Why 18 months? Why not 6 or 9 months, or 2 years? A brief investigation has revealed the verdict was in proportion to the unity government's remaining tenure. Since it still has 3 more years to go, Weizman was exiled for half of the Inner Cabinet's tenure. The obvious conclusion is very simple: Those guys up there seriously intend to keep the present government alive until the end of its natural existence in 1992.

Although an occasional crisis breaks out, it seems to excite the media more than the heads of state. Every few weeks, we read about and hear voices saying "the majority of the Alignment ministers are determined in their position that a stalemate in the peace process will bring about the dissolution of the government." The occasional ultimatums are flung about, saying if this or that is not done, the government will be disbanded.

Before the threats become uncontrollable, however, they are made void by either Rabin, Peres, or Shamir who claim "this is neither the right time nor the right issue over which to disband the unity government." Every month has its own special "this time."

Many ministers believe, in its current shape, the government does not function properly on any national issue. It does nothing to anticipate the expected wave of immigration, or the European customs deregulation expected in 1992. (Have we already mentioned the peace process?) Nevertheless, the past crises focused on marginal issues and did not really jeopardize the government, which is focused mainly on itself and its own survival.

The government will not fall next month. Nor will it fall the month after next or the month after that—not because it is good or vital to the country, but because of the rare combination of personal interests of Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Shamir, the two men on whom the life or death of this government depend. Yitzhaq & Yitzhaq, Inc. If there was a government lottery, I would gamble on them: So long as it is up to them, they will not allow the government to fall.

The first reason is that both know the fall of the government will bring about early elections. Even if the establishment of a narrow-based government by either party (the Labor stands a slightly better chance) is feasible, neither Shamir nor Rabin want it. Shamir realizes if he contrives to set up a government with a margin of one vote, he will become a hostage in the hands of the radical right-wing parties and the butt of the constraints ministers' harassment. This suits neither his

inclination nor his character. He would prefer to get his own way by doing nothing, assisted by the Labor Party.

Rabin, likewise, is not eager to embrace the concept of a narrow-based government founded and headed by Shim'on Peres. Not only will this government be a hostage in the hands of the religious parties and make itself insufferable to the public soon enough, it also will guarantee Peres will head the party list in the early elections (at which time they can be trusted to sprout a multitude of aphorisms, such as "one does not change horses in mid stream" and "one does not abandon a friend on the battlefield"). Does he have it so bad just now, being No 1 and enjoying more popularity than any other Cabinet member?

In both Yitzhaqs' parties, there is internal ferment and various groups favoring the dissolution of the government with the ultimate goal of doing away with Shamir on the one hand, and Rabin and Peres—the old guard—on the other. The government's fall and early elections may put an end to all of these. For what do they need it?

Each of them has national arguments, too. Both desire the broadest consensus possible as a miracle cure for our condition. Rabin believes the peace process cannot be launched without partnership with the Likud. Shamir believes only a broad-based government can remain stationary in the face of American pressure. The last two statements may seem a paradox, but are not Rabin and Peres as opposed as Shamir to a dialogue with the PLO? Everyone knows Shamir stands to gain more from a unity government: He achieves his ideological goals, neutralizes the peril of a large opposition party by smothering it in a bear hug, and has an easy time keeping his Likud opponents at arm's length.

Rabin has been saying to his close circle the public is weary of hypotheses and pointless words; the public wants decisive action. The latter means so long as we do not have a genuine partner for negotiations, and so long as it is not crystal clear the Likud is the factor preventing a political breakthrough, what pretext will we use to dissolve the government, and on what grounds will we ask for the public's confidence?

The name of the game, therefore, is "the pretext." If they felt a burning desire to disband the government, they would have found the right pretext. As the opposite is true, they will not provide each other with a pretext and will not find one themselves, as long as one of them decides it is worth his while. In the meantime, Yitzhaq and Yitzhaq are laughing at the world, and the government lives forever.

Ideas To Include Deportees in Peace Plan Viewed

TA0901202790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpts] During the past few days, the Defense Ministry has been searching for ideas on including Palestinian deportees and representatives from East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel,

our political correspondent has learned. The possibility deportees who have returned to Israel with the defense minister's permission could participate in the Palestinian delegation recently has not been rejected categorically at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. Tomorrow morning the forum of four will discuss these issues, as well as preparations for the foreign ministers' meeting in Washington. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio:

The defense minister recently has prepared a series of proposals on these issues that may be discussed tomorrow by the forum of four. Among other things, we are talking about the defense minister permitting several deportees to return to Israel, where two of these deportees then will be chosen to participate in the delegation. Senior political sources at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry confirmed this is the least of evils as far as Israel is concerned. The deportees who would be repatriated with the defense minister's consent, moreover, still are listed in the Judea and Samaria registration of inhabitants. As for inclusion of East Jerusalem residents, it has been discovered all the possible candidates own houses in other cities in Judea and Samaria, not just Jerusalem.

The United States, meanwhile, is breathing down the necks of Israel and the Palestinians to hasten the political process. With calculated timing—on the eve of tomorrow's debate in the forum of four and the Inner Cabinet, and just before President Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat in Cairo—the United States this morning sent a warning signal to all parties, meaning it never had stated unequivocally that the foreign ministers' meeting definitely would take place. The U.S. State Department announced this, and added it would be absurd to conduct such a meeting without achieving positive results. This evening sources at Peres' and Rabin's bureaus estimated this message to be an implied U.S. warning it is about to lose its patience regarding the Middle East.

The prime minister reacted today to the State Department declaration in 'Akko. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Arens a short while ago said if it becomes clear no progress can be achieved because Egypt only transfers messages from the PLO, then Israel will look for another way to conduct the elections.

Against the background of the U.S. statement, which gives rise to doubt regarding the foreign ministers' meeting, Defense Minister Rabin's trip to Washington next week becomes especially important, because the United States believes Yitzhaq Rabin—who just recently once again salvaged the national unity government because of what he termed the political consideration—is able more than anyone else to offer serious proposals for furthering the peace process.

Rabin Approves Entry of Non-PLO Funds Into Gaza

TA0501131390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Jan 90 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] HA'ARETZ has learned Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given his approval—conveyed by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories—for the introduction of millions of dollars into the Gaza Strip, provided the source of the money is not the PLO.

It has been learned one of the conditions for this approval is the Civil Administration have control over introduction of the funds and the way they are disbursed. Security sources have reported that last week a group of Gaza Strip officials, including Dr Tawfiq al-Yazchi, Ahmad Hasan al-Shawwa, and others came to Goren's office and asked him to allow funds into the Gaza Strip to start building two new and modern hospitals and to launch other projects.

[Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic on 5 January in an "exclusive" report on page 2 writes about only one 200-bed hospital "to be built in the central sector of the Gaza Strip." The estimated cost of the project is "around \$20 million." The project "will be implemented within 4 years." The sources of the money are the Islamic Charity Society in Kuwait, the Islamic World League in Mecca, and the Islamic Bank in Jeddah.]

Goren obtained the defense minister's approval, but made it conditional on guaranteeing the money does not come from the PLO. According to local leaders—and this also is what they reported to the coordinator of activities—the money comes from Kuwaiti and Saudi groups who pledged the funds did not originate with the PLO. It also has been learned in addition to the Civil Administration's demand for control over entry of the funds into the Gaza Strip, it also will supervise everything for which the money is used. The notables were asked to promise if it transpires the source of the money indeed is the PLO, the Civil Administration will have the right to confiscate the money and the land slated for the projects.

This is the first time security elements have permitted Gaza Strip notables to bring in large sums of money.

In the past few months, security elements have confiscated hundreds of thousands of dollars brought into the Gaza Strip by Palestinians, including reporters. The money was intended to finance continued intifadah activity among Gaza Strip youth.

Arens Said Willing To Attend Tripartite Meeting

TA0901114590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Foreign Minister's Office in Jerusalem has said when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker decides he

wants to convene the three foreign ministers, Mr Arens will be happy to attend the meeting. Responding to remarks made today by the State Department spokeswoman, Foreign Ministry adviser Dani Nave told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Israel currently is holding contacts with the United States on the formulation of assurances; Minister Arens' office hopes the process will be favorably concluded. [passage omitted]

Arens on Palestinian Parties to Peace Initiative

TA0901185990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has made it clear that if a solution cannot be found through the Baker plan, Israel will have another way to hold elections in the territories.

The foreign minister was speaking in Jerusalem this evening at the International Jewish Media Conference.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent David Essing] Tomorrow, the Inner Cabinet discusses Secretary of State Baker's response to the Likud demands for assurances to keep the PLO out of peace negotiations. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens made his position very clear.

[Arens] And should it turn out that we cannot, through Mr Baker's five points, arrive at this dialogue that will deal with the procedures for holding elections then we will find another route to arrive at a consensus on electoral procedures, and move on to the elections that we want to hold so that we shall be able to begin negotiations with representatives of the Palestinian Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Essing] Arens said East Jerusalem was not part of Israel's peace initiative, nor could Palestinians from abroad or convicted terrorists serve as delegates. The foreign minister said Israel opposed negotiations with the PLO not only because it was a terrorist organization. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat claimed to be speaking for 6,500,000 Palestinians, including those in the diaspora, and demanded their right of return to Israel. This, Arens said, would spell the destruction of Israel. [end recording]

Rabin Resisting 'Pressure' on S. Africa Contracts

TA0501092090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Rabin is resisting pressure from the Foreign Ministry to announce during his trip to Washington this month that Israel will be ready to cancel some of its existing military contracts with South Africa, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Rabin expects that he will be pressed by Defence Secretary Richard Cheney and other Pentagon officials to cancel some of the contracts, sources said. Some of them added that they hoped Rabin would change his mind and offer some cuts.

Rabin's objection to such action is said to be based on the poor economic state of the defence industry. The cancellation of a major contract could lead to the collapse of one of the defence industries. The scope of Israeli military contracts with South Africa is not made public for security reasons. [passage omitted]

More on Official's Ethiopia Visit, Nile Diversion

TA1001095890 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
10 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav returned this week from an official visit to Ethiopia, where he and regime leaders discussed ways to increase cooperation and Israeli aid to Ethiopia. Along with the agreements for economic and technological cooperation and the dispatch of Israeli experts to Ethiopia, it was agreed the Addis Ababa government officially will permit the emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel as part of the ongoing family reunion plan.

Senior Foreign Ministry sources yesterday reiterated their denial of reports alleging Israel is assisting Ethiopia in diverting the sources of the Nile. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 10 January in a page 2 report by Moti Bassok adds: "Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav yesterday instructed Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, to explain to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that Israel is not participating in any Ethiopian project for diverting the waters of the Nile."]

Returns From Visit

TA0901164490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav has returned from a working visit in Ethiopia. The entire range of ties with Israel following the resumption of diplomatic relations, as well as economic cooperation, were discussed. The above was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

'Military Sources' Deny Colonel Killed in Chad

TA0901124690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Jan 90 p 2

["Exclusive" report by UK-based correspondent Sha'ul Tzadqa and military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] London—The Chadian rebels, who are fighting the regime of Hissein Habre and enjoy the support of Sudan and Libya, claim they have killed a senior Israeli officer who served as Habre's adviser. They claim the man they killed is Colonel David Ari'el, whose body they delivered to Khartoum. They want to prove Israel is assisting the Chadian Government in the civil war in which it is engaged. [passage omitted]

Military correspondent Dan Sagir adds:

In response to this report, official military sources said there is no such colonel in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] records. Furthermore, the sources know nothing about any Israeli officer or adviser being hurt by the Chadian rebels.

Ya'aqobi Accepts Invitations to Romania, Poland

TA0901134090 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi recently has been invited by the new governments in Romania and Poland to visit their countries. Ya'aqobi has accepted the invitations. The two countries' communications ministers want to discuss communications cooperation and bilateral relations with Minister Ya'aqobi.

Communications Ministry personnel soon will depart to Bucharest and Warsaw to prepare the visits.

Joint Venture With Hungarian Bank Announced

TA0901144690 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1400 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Bank Leumi and the large Hungarian bank (Kredit) will set up a joint body to finance import-export transactions in Eastern Europe.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports Moshe Zanbar, the chairman of Bank Leumi, announced this development during a meeting between Foreign Minister Arens and his Hungarian counterpart at the Hungarian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Zanbar explained Hungary had been chosen for this deal because of the relatively comfortable conditions for financial activity in this country.

Shamir: Jordan 'Responsible' for Border Events

TA0901165290 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister says the latest threats from the Jordanian border impel us to take measures to prevent their recurrence. He noted security elements already have taken action regarding this.

Our correspondent Nati Silberman notes during a tour of 'Akko, Mr Shamir pointed out these events do not indicate a change in Jordan's policy, but it is responsible for everything that happens along the border.

IDF General on Jordanian Border Incidents

TA0501172190 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, says in the wake of the latest two shooting incidents, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has adopted all necessary measures to guarantee continuation of

normal life along the Jordanian border. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a talk with Ze'ev Shor, head of the Jordan Valley regional council, Major General Mordekhay said he knows the Jordanians are making every effort to keep the border quiet. The source of the incidents is a small number of people with hostile intentions who are trying to heat up this front.

IDF Shells 'Terrorist' Targets in Lebanon

TA0901203290 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
2000 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery units shelled terrorist targets inside Lebanon several times during the last 24 hours, official military sources reported. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the shelling was part of routine IDF operations against the terrorist organizations.

Shelling Continues; Injuries Noted

TA1001091990 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] again this morning shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone in Lebanon. The UN observers headquarters reported this to our correspondent Hayim Hecht. The observers said IDF artillery fired several dozen 175-mm shells.

Military sources last night confirmed the IDF had shelled terrorist targets in the eastern sector, north of the security zone. Beirut newspapers reported two people were killed and 16 injured in this shelling.

Further on 9 Jan Incidents in Occupied Territories

TA1001105690

[Editorial Report] Reporting on incidents in the territories on 9 January, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 10 January in a page 2 report by the territories correspondent and Dani Tzidqoni states: "A woman suspected of collaboration with the authorities was run down by a car in Gaza last night." The reports adds that according to Palestinian sources, "the majority of yesterday's incidents occurred in Nabulus and Tulkarm. Two youths sustained gunshot wounds in Nabulus and one in the nearby Balatah refugee camp. In the Tulkarm refugee camp, four locals, including a 9-year-old boy, were wounded in clashes."

The report adds "according to East Jerusalem sources, in the village of Hablah near Qalqilyah a violent incident developed between residents and a group of collaborators who opened fire, severely wounding one of the residents. Security sources reported only six injured in Judaea and Samaria."

According to other reports, "Eight local residents were wounded in incidents in al-Shaykh Radwan, Jabalyah, Bayt Lahiyah, and the al-Shati' refugee camp." Meanwhile, "in Hebron, Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, yesterday met with with a group

of local notables as part of efforts to maintain open channels of communication with the population. The notables included Mayor 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zir; Adib al-Qaysi, chairman of the Association of Academics; and Hafiz 'Abd-al-Naji al-Natshah."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 10 January in an unattributed report on page A7 adds: "The Janin military court sentenced a resident of the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, who had been convicted of throwing a cinder block at a soldier from a roof, to 5 years imprisonment, including a 2-year suspended sentence." The report adds "the soldier was slightly injured."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 10 January in a page 2 report by Ayelet Mazor, Pinhas 'Inbari, Betzal'el 'Amiqam, and ITIM reports "the Unified National Command of the Uprising has announced U.S. statesman Jesse Jackson soon will arrive on a visit to the territories, "the State of Palestine," and that the Palestinians are requested to give him a warm reception."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 10 January reports "the IDF demolished the Bayt Hanun house of a man suspected of aiding the murderers of soldier Ilan Sa'adon. The man is suspected of having assisted in planning the murder and of concealing evidence."

Five Arabs Injured in Stone-Throwing Incidents

TA0901135690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Two Arabs were injured today by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the course of stone-throwing incidents in the (Hart al-'Amud) neighborhood in Nabulus. They were taken to al-Ittihad Hospital with moderate injuries.

Our correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil adds three residents were wounded by rubber bullets during stone-throwing clashes in the Tulkarm refugee camp. They were treated at the hospital and later discharged.

Sentences Imposed on Arabs; 2 Detainees Released

TA0501142390 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 5 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam, Ayelet Mazor, and ITIM]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The High Court of Justice yesterday endorsed the demolition of houses belonging to four Gaza strike committee members, including one

who worked for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], who had been convicted, among other things, of cutting off the ears of collaborators.

The four appellants—Naji al-Raqib, a mechanic in the IDF and a father of five; 'Adil Najjar, a father of seven; Jamil Abu-'Asi, a father of three; and Nadi Abu-'Asi, a father of three—along with eight other defendants were convicted at the Gaza military court of cruel assaults on collaborators. In her speech before the High Court of Justice, their attorney, Le'a Zemel, claimed it was not proven the tearing down of their houses would do any good.

Justices Aharon Barak, Eli'ezer Goldberg, and Ya'aqov Qedmi, who had rejected the appeals, stated: "We have not seen any evidence to indicate the tool of tearing down buildings is ineffective to the point of making its use unreasonable. On the contrary, the military commander believes it is a very effective tool, and we have no ground for interfering in this concept."

Yitzhaq Braz, a justice of the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, yesterday imposed a 3-year prison term on Muhammad Daqar (26) of Khan Yunus.

On 23 January 1988 a border policeman saw the defendant kicking a parked car on Herbert Samuel Street in Tel Aviv, opposite the French Consulate, and asked him to identify himself. The defendant declined and ran wild, assaulting the policeman, as well as a friend who rushed to his help, and threatened to assault Jews in general.

In a reception accorded Christian community leaders for Christmas and the new Gregorian year, Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, announced two Christian detainees had been released on the occasion of the holidays. [passage omitted]

Boy Wounded in Gaza; Car Torched in Jerusalem

TA0501194390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The rain storms of the past few days have decreased considerably the number of violent incidents in the Gaza Strip. A military source told an ITIM correspondent that today and yesterday have been the quietest days recently in the Gaza Strip. Arab sources reported one wounded, a 10-year-old boy who suffered leg wounds from soldiers' gunfire during a stoning incident.

A private car was set on fire at noon today near the southern exit of Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus. The car, which belonged to a university worker, was gutted. This is reported by our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov.

King Husayn Criticizes Israel's Position on Peace

JN0901161290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Amman, 9 Jan (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has said peace cannot be achieved at the expense of land and rights, and that the Palestinian people and their leadership represented by the PLO have offered everything they were asked to reach a just peace with Israel. He said, however, it seems the Israeli leadership is afraid of peace, because it has not responded to the positive Palestinian position with a similar position, which can promote the current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

This came during His Majesty King Husayn's reception today at the Royal Hashemite Court for a delegation consisting of members of the international affairs associations in the United States and another delegation consisting of representatives of a U.S. church.

During the meeting, his majesty also reviewed Middle East affairs and explained developments in the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon, and the need to reach a just and real peace between Iraq and Iran.

His majesty said the world is witnessing exciting events and a trend toward peace. He voiced his hope this trend would lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East so its peoples can focus their energies and efforts on building a better future and life for themselves and future generations.

His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser, attended the meeting.

U.S. Responsible for 'Abnormal' Israeli Position

JN1001091990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 Jan 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Road to Peace"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has explained the facts of the current situation in the region and the world to a number of U.S. political and religious figures. His majesty clearly displayed the extent of the dangers that may arise in the future if Israel does not respond to the positive Palestinian position with a similar position that can promote the current efforts to take concrete steps toward peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership represented by the PLO have given everything they were asked to reach a just and comprehensive peace with Israel, which continues to turn a deaf ear to every bold call for an end to the state of historical enmity and for negotiations to establish an honorable peace preserving the interests and dignity of all parties involved in the process.

There is no doubt the recent Palestinian peace offensive, which goes side by side with the Palestinian people's blessed intifadah, has exposed the reality of the devious Israeli position and also has unveiled the real face of the radical racist leadership, which fears peace and lacks political courage to listen to appeals for peace, the will of the international community, and the UN resolutions calling for an end to the occupation and granting the Palestinian people their natural right to self-determination.

Although Israel's leaders have continued to breach the international consensus and show indifference to the Security Council and UN resolutions, their arrogance and racism represent an unprecedented trend in the contemporary history of international relations. A small country living basically on foreign aid ignores all the facts of the age, scorns the United Nations and world public opinion, and continues to occupy other countries' territories by force at a time when the sun of colonialism has set and large empires have collapsed.

The United States' exceptional responsibility thus arises. It does so not only because it is a superpower responsible for preserving world peace and security, but because it is the country that provides sufficient political and financial aid to prop the abnormal Israeli position and prolong Israel's violation of the criteria and rules of the international community.

In light of this, we believe Israel's escalating extremism day after day and the United States' refusal to see Israel's violation of international law and the will of the international community have created and prolonged the abnormal Israeli position and opened the way for the extremist Israeli leaders to commit the ugliest crimes, confiscate the simplest human rights, and undermine all the tendered peace initiatives, including the U.S. initiative itself, which now faces Israel's rejection.

Trade Minister Outlines Import Tariffs, Bans

JN1001081590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
10 Jan 90 p 6

[By Suhayr 'Ubaydat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—In line with Jordan's market-oriented economy and the new 1990 fiscal budget recently presented to the Lower House of Parliament, which aims at raising more domestic revenues, imported products banned a year ago now are allowed but with a very high tariff to discourage private and public consumption.

The ban on imported goods imposed by the then government of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i was lifted Jan. 1, 1990, as pledged when the ban was imposed.

"I believe that lifting the ban is a wise decision which best fits the Jordanian economic policy built on freedom and encouragement of the private sector and the freedom of trade," Minister of Trade and Industry Ziyad Fariz told the Jordan Times in an interview.

According to the minister, lifting the ban has been replaced by increases in customs duties with percentage varying from five to 20 per cent.

"The solution is to import goods, with high customs fees, so the resulting high prices of products decreases their demand, thus decreasing consumption," he said. Decreasing public and private consumption is one of the main features of the proposed 1990 fiscal budget.

For example, brick blocks which were banned but now can be imported but with an increase in the customs duty of up to 40 per cent.

Duties on statues and artifacts have increased 15 to 60 per cent. Customs on cars which were already extremely high before the ban ranging from 100 to 110 per cent will increase another 20 per cent.

On the other hand, fees were reduced on some raw materials which are necessary for production.

"Banning products from entering the country does not solve the economic problems, it might even encourage smuggling, leading to more serious and chronic problems," Fariz explained.

Taking the years 1987 and 1988 as a measurement scale, during the ban, the government lost about JD 45 million from customs duties on imports. The value of the imported goods amount to JD 46 million because the customs duties are 100 per cent.

"It is true that the ban reduced the commitments involving foreign currencies, and other financial policies like customs duties and income taxes resulted in lower consumption," he said. "But although some of these policies may prove effective on the short run, on a long term basis, they might have negative implications and side effects, like smuggling, and the increase of transactions of foreign currencies in the black market," he maintained.

Others also believe that the ban was only a short term solution. Jawad al-Anani, an analyst, agrees that the ban was effective in reducing the import bill, but on the long run, it would have lead to imperfections in the market, such as black markets and smuggling.

"The best policy is not a total ban, but to use the price mechanism, i.e. higher tariff charges (a higher tariff wall), and which is more effective than a total ban," he said.

On the other hand, lifting of the ban may lead to a temporary increase in imports, because merchants did not import at all last year. But al-Anani does not think that the total import would be as high as some people

expect, due to very high prices, because "importers would not want to stock their shelves with unsold commodities," he explained.

The proposed policies, as seen by Fariz, are most effective when implemented in light of financial stability, which can be achieved, according to the minister, through increasing exports of national industries and finding new markets.

"We do have some industries that provide the country with stable annual revenue of \$600 million, which could increase with the rise of production and improved marketing," Fariz said.

These industries, which had a much better performance during 1988, according to Fariz, include the cement, phosphate, and potash, in addition to pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The government's policy is directed towards encouraging and supporting the private sector to perform productive and export-oriented projects, since they also provide working opportunities, thus reducing unemployment," he said. [quote mark as published]

However, economists commenting on the 1990 austerity budget, pointed out that although the plan cuts public and private consumption and saves on foreign currency, it also limits job opportunities and reduces the total economic activity.

The proposed budget holds out any chances of further employment, regardless of the increased focus of attention on improving both the quality and quantity of local products, because money is intended to be channelled in the economy towards new investments, said an economist.

He added that higher taxes are a discouragement for anyone wanting to invest in the country.

The import ban included all types of cars and transportation vehicles, televisions and videos, air conditioners, microwave ovens, refrigerators and freezers, artificial fruits and flowers, tiles, statues and chandeliers.

Although the ban has been lifted, there are still some items which are not allowed for import. These include mineral water, table salt, fresh milk and tomato paste. Some farm products are also prohibited based on the agricultural season.

Meanwhile, white cheese and labaneh have been imported in very small quantities for the manufacturers of confectionaries and sweets.

Foreign cigarettes will continue to be imported by the Ministry of Supply, which has always been the sole legal importer in the country.

Hammadi Gets Message From Hungarian Counterpart

*JN0901151690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has received an oral message from Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy.

The message was delivered by Janos Minhart [name as received], director at the Hungarian Trade Ministry, when he was received today by Mr Hammadi.

During the audience, which was attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad, the economic relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting them were reviewed.

More Amal-Hizballah Fighting, Israeli Shelling

NC0901205890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Amal Movement sources have told our radio that limited skirmishes between the Movement and Hizballah are continuing on the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah and that their military operations are confined to intermittent gunfire involving various types of weapons.

The sources denied reports that fighting resumed at 1900 tonight. AFP had indicated earlier that violent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed tonight after having eased over the past 48 hours. [passage omitted]

According to security reports received from western al-Biq'a, tonight the Israelis shelled the outskirts of 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar, in the area of al-Kassarat to be precise, where a number of positions held by fundamentalists are located.

'Violent' Shiite Fighting Resumes

NC1001082890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Violent clashes resumed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 0400 this morning. Citing security sources, REUTER reported that various types of artillery and heavy machineguns were used in the violent fighting which raged during the morning.

Besharati Talks With PFLP's Jibril in Beirut

LD0901184790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] This morning our Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati met and conferred with Mr Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, at the premises of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

According to the Central News Unit in Beirut, at this meeting Ahmad Jibril declared his all-around support for the Islamic Republic delegation's endeavors to end the present clashes between the Amal Movement and revolutionary Hezbollah movement. He also expressed his thanks and appreciations for the effective role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in supporting the revolutionary Muslim Palestinians and their struggles against the Zionists.

At this meeting Mr Besharati also said that he hopes that with an end to these clashes all Islamic and national forces will unite to continue the anti-Zionist struggles in south Lebanon. Our country's deputy foreign minister declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and underlined the need to strengthen that

uprising so as to confront the policy of compromise with Israel among those Palestinian officials who are bent on compromise.

Al-Huss Says Government 'Will Not Give In'

NC1001120590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said that the details of the tour President Ilyas al-Hirawi will make to a number of Arab states will be determined by developments in Lebanon.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-BAYAN, Prime Minister al-Huss said that the government will not give in to the fait accompli in the eastern area and will continue to deal with the rebellion. The government, he said, will never accept the continuation of this situation.

Al-Tufayli Insists on Amal Compliance with Accord

NC0901211590 Paris AFP in English 2044 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP)—Fighting between Shia Moslem groups in southern Lebanon flared Tuesday shortly after a senior Iranian official mediating in Beirut announced that a cease-fire would take effect soon.

Security sources said pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hizballah fighters, who have been battling in hills east of this southern port city for almost three weeks, exchanged heavy fire late in the day after a 48-hour lull.

Only hours earlier, Iran's first deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati had met Amal leader Nabih Birri in Beirut and announced that a cease-fire would "soon take effect" in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region.

"The militiamen will withdraw from their positions and the crisis will soon be definitively resolved," Mr. Besharati said.

Amal and Hizballah, whose battle for control of Shiite communities in the region has left 87 people dead and 275 wounded, had observed a seven-hour truce Monday to allow Red Cross workers to remove the corpses of slain fighters.

"We are ready to respect a cease-fire," Mr. Birri said after meeting Mr. Besharati Tuesday, "on condition that the conflict be definitively settled and the Damascus accord scrupulously applied."

Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, also said he backed the implementation of the accord, which was signed in January 1989 under the auspices of Iran and Syria to end an earlier round of Amal-Hizballah fighting.

But he charged that Amal had failed to honor the agreement, notably a section allowing Hizballah to exercise its autonomy in political, social and cultural activities in southern Lebanon.

Shaykh al-Tufayli also refused to consider an unconditional withdrawal by Hizballah from villages it had captured from Amal in the early stages of the current round of clashes.

Tuesday's fighting took place despite the presence of some 400 Palestinian guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat who have been trying to establish a buffer zone between the Shiite militias.

Both Hizballah and Amal have criticised the operation, begun a week ago by the Fatah guerrillas in an effort to stop the fighting spreading to nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

Mr. Besharati, who arrived here Sunday from Damascus, has also met with Hizballah's spiritual guide, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

The Iranian official in late December announced a cease-fire in southern Lebanon but the truce never took hold on the ground.

Al-Tufayli, Jibril Assail Palestinian Deployment

NC1001074190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has asked 'Arafat's group to withdraw from the areas where they have deployed and return to their original positions. He said that Fatah fighters were wrong to deploy in the areas where fighting has taken place. He noted that the presence of Palestinian forces in these areas limits [as heard] the Islamic resistance activities in southern Lebanon.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has declared his opposition to the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He exhorted the parties concerned to stop fighting and devote their efforts to confronting the Israeli occupation. On the deployment of 'Arafat's group, he said that 'Arafat incited the fighting and is not concerned about the spilling of Shiite blood, because a man who made concessions to Israel would not be concerned about such bloodshed. Since he declared a halt to fighting against Israel 2 years ago, 'Arafat has become acceptable to Antoine Lahd and the Israelis.

Goals of 'Arafat Forces' Viewed

NC1001111290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Political commentary: "The Palestinian Disengagement Force"]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There are people who have good opinion of the step taken by Yasir 'Arafat's group and describe its interference in the Iqlim al-Tuffah clashes and its deployment between the two combatants as a disengagement force. They do not want anyone to say anything else about this step. There are people who want to thank 'Arafat on the assumption that he stopped the bloodshed. What, however, is the true meaning of the step taken by the 'Arafat group? Is it true that it wants to disengage the fighters or is it pursuing other goals?

Why has the 'Arafat group now become acceptable when it was rejected in the recent past and when fighting against 'Arafat in the camps and other areas lasted for well over 2 years? The first fact that we want to put on record is that 'Arafat's interference was prompted by an Arab decision to prevent Hizballah from increasing the area under its control. This fact is manifest in most commentaries on and analyses of 'Arafat's interference. The second fact is that the Iqlim al-Tuffah battles were not aimed at partition and [Palestinian] settlement, because partition and settlement require an international as well as a regional decision. Those who raised an outcry about partition and settlement are the same people who are now hailing and expressing satisfaction with 'Arafat's interference.

As for 'Arafat himself, there is no doubt that he is seeking a foothold in Lebanon, specifically in the south. Since 'Arafat used the Iqlim al-Tuffah fighting as a pretext, responsibility for this certainly lies with the parties that paved the way for 'Arafat's interference under the excuse of maintaining the Arabism of southern Lebanon. To say that no one is qualified to preserve this Arabism except 'Arafat and his supporters is to say that maintaining the Arabism of the south means confronting the danger of Islamic fundamentalism, as certain people believe, and not the danger of Zionist invasion and efforts to preserve the status quo.

'Arafat is extending the area under his control in the south in accordance with an Arab decision in order to confront the Iranian danger. He is not doing this in accordance with an Arab or personal decision to confront the Zionist occupation nor is he doing this in accordance with an Arab or personal decision to stop the internecine fighting. The fighting may benefit certain reactionary Arab circles provided that it does not cross the red lines.

'Arafat does not want to establish a Palestinian state in the south, but seeks to display the extent of the responsibility he can take for the American and Israeli peace should he be given a state in part or all of the West Bank and Gaza. He wants to prove that he has become worthy

of entering the game of a settlement, because he and his forces are capable of standing up to any dangers threatening Zionist security and U.S. policy, beginning with the Lebanese fundamentalists and ending with the Palestinian fundamentalists and all other fundamentalists and supporters of radical calls. This is the meaning of 'Arafat's interference to those who inflated his status or to those who tried to underestimate his negative effect or fabricate his positive effect. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Says Al-Ta'if Solution Feasible

PM1001094190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
5 Jan 90 pp 18-19

[Unattributed interview with Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: There are militias, parties, and gunmen on the ground. How will the Interior Ministry deal with these "illegal" elements?

AL-Khazin: True, there are militias and parties, and certainly I will not be able to deal with the militias at this moment. I will probably try through the leaderships of these parties to arrive at a kind of pacification until we start to implement the Al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The biggest challenge facing the government is the application of the al-Ta'if document. And the first challenge in that document is placed on the Interior Ministry's shoulders; namely, disbanding the militias and collecting the arms. What is the Interior Ministry's plan in that regard?

AL-Khazin: The preliminary plan is that we will cooperate with the organs operating on the ground to apply the section in the Al-Ta'if document concerning security.

AL-HAWADITH: Who will collect the arms from the militias?

AL-Khazin: The forces existing on the ground.

AL-HAWADITH: Lebanese and non-Lebanese?

AL-Khazin: Certainly; Lebanese and non-Lebanese, as stipulated in the al-Ta'if document, which sets a period of 6 months as of the issuing of the laws concerning the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Can the internal security forces and the other legitimate forces wage a successful war against the militias, which have for 15 years continued to build themselves and establish their interests?

AL-Khazin: Certainly the legitimate forces will not engage in a battle now. They will be helped and backed by the present security forces. And on that basis we should achieve some results and some success.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think that such backing will be sufficient?

AL-Khazin: Yes. The present force can control the situation within 10 minutes when it wants to.

AL-HAWADITH: But when will it decide to do so?

AL-Khazin: Perhaps conditions have not been favorable for it to do so. The Lebanese people were at odds, everyone was asking for his own lost rights, and then they all discovered that their rights had been lost. So they tired of that and decided to extricate themselves from the dilemma into which they had pushed themselves. That is, of course, the conviction of the wise, not of the "devil group."

AL-HAWADITH: The al-Ta'if agreement has perpetuated the "will of the wise."

AL-Khazin: The al-Ta'if agreement has been concluded, but no Lebanese has achieved his objective through that agreement. However, everyone is talking about the need to work to implement the agreement and help the state stand on its feet, and, if there is a possibility to clarify what is mentioned in the agreement, that will be fine.

'Awn Reportedly Confiscates Overseas Bank Funds

NC1001071390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] AL-SAFIR cites an official financial source as saying that a few months ago General Michel 'Awn confiscated all funds deposited in the accounts of the Lebanese military attache offices in Paris, London, Washington, and Brussels. The value of these accounts, which include Fr11 million belonging to the military attache's office at the Lebanese Embassy in Paris, is estimated at tens of millions of dollars.

The source explained that the funds, which were allocated to the Lebanese Army at the rate of \$500,000 a month by an Arab country which took it upon itself to provide monthly assistance to the Army for food and medical care, were actually deposited in the name of Gen 'Awn before he was named prime minister of the military government. He said that some of this aid, as well as the fuel fund and the Iraqi money which was usually delivered to B'abda by Brigadier General 'Isam Abu-Jamrah or Brigadier General Fu'ad Ghusn, was distributed to some officers and persons close to the al-Yarzah command. Most of the funds, estimated to total more than \$100 million, were deposited in Gen 'Awn's name in Swiss and other European and U.S. banks. These deposits are in addition to the property which was registered in Gen 'Awn's and his wife's names.

The source added that Gen 'Awn recently changed a large amount of Lebanese currency into dollars and noted the connection of this matter with the continuous rise in the value of the U.S. dollar.

AL-BA'TH Analyzes Noriega, U.S. Connection

JN0901174890 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
7 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "News Analysis"]

[Text] Six months ago, THE WASHINGTON POST promised the American people perestroika would move to the United States, and said the American people, unlike other Western peoples, are in the dark about the role played by the CIA both inside and outside the United States.

The question is: What is U.S. President Bush's motive in bringing Panamanian General Noriega to trial?

If Noriega's role in drug trafficking was the reason behind the U.S. invasion of Panama, then one wonders whether Noriega really poses more of a threat to the American people than the major American drug dealers, who are very well known to the U.S. authorities.

If Noriega was a drug trafficker, moreover, the question is when and how did he begin this business? Who encouraged him? Is it really true the American people do not know Noriega's advisers and the other cocaine traders and farmers in Colombia are Israelis?

We are not suggesting George Bush wants to bring Israel to trial through the Panamanian General Noriega. But Bush, as a former director of the CIA, wants, in fact, to remove the negative results of the policy of his predecessor Ronald Reagan, who turned the CIA into a hateful body for its unethical conduct inside and outside the United States.

We do not mean to defend George Bush and label him an ingenious Western democrat, but we can say Bush currently is trying to improve the image of the U.S. Administration in the era of perestroika and major world changes. Democracy in the United States indeed is lagging behind the European democracy, and for them to be equal, Bush must begin disclosing deep secrets and mysteries, including the CIA's role in encouraging and promoting drugs since the end of the sixties. It is very well known the American people's revolution against the Vietnam War was countered by two dangerous tactics: First, the use of force to suppress the anti-war movements. More than 10,000 people were killed or wounded by the bullets of U.S. National Guardsmen during demonstrations against the war. Second, using drugs as a means to distract the attention of U.S. youth. For this purpose, the Americans used the dictators of Latin America and the Israeli Mosad.

Information published in the U.S. press since 1974 has revealed the spreading of drugs among Americans was carried out by two U.S. bodies: First, the CIA, and second, the U.S. National Security Council headed by the known Zionist Henry Kissinger. At that time, the CIA and Panama's General Manuel Antonio Noriega worked together to liquidate former ruler of Panama, Omar Torrijos, who refused to make his country a

conduit for cocaine from Colombia, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Paraguay to the United States. Noriega thus assumed power and cooperated with the CIA in shipping and storing drugs. He also was assisted by three senior Israeli Mosad officers.

Information in the U.S. press regarding President George Bush's insistence Noriega be tried has revealed the U.S. President wanted to clarify some obscurities and find out the truth at a time when Americans no longer need the large numbers of people recruited by the CIA.

Does the U.S. President want to apply the principle of openness in the United States? Can the U.S. President bear the consequences of Noriega's trial?

If drug trafficking has prompted Bush to try Noriega, why did the U.S. Administration ignore the Israeli officers, who have damaged Colombia and certainly participated in drug trafficking and training the drugs army in Latin America?

The United States moreover knows the largest international drug trafficking network is based in Thailand, which is a friendly country to the United States. Why are Thai leaders who are involved in drug trafficking not tried?

Events in Burma 1 and 1/2 years ago prove the CIA contributed to the thwarting of the popular movement in that Asian country so the CIA's role in encouraging trafficking and growing drugs in Indochina would not be disclosed.

It hence is clear U.S. President George Bush has reasons for trying former Panamanian leader Noriega, including the disclosure of the CIA's ugly role in trafficking drugs or carrying out political assassinations against Omar Torrijos, the liberal presidential candidate in Colombia and a number of judges and lawyers in Colombia and other Latin American countries.

If Bush wants to be truthful, he should examine Zionist Henry Kissinger's role in spreading drugs as National Security Council adviser, when he was directly responsible for deploying Israeli Mosad officers in Latin America along with traffickers of cocaine and its byproducts that have poisoned the American people.

U.S. Inaction on Israeli Panama Role Questioned

JN1001090590 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
6 Jan 90 p 8

[Article by Ahmad Suwwan: "Head and Tail of the Snake"]

[Text] Talk—only talk—once more has been bandied about the dangerous role officially carried out by Zionists to provide assistance and facilities to General Manuel Noriega to enable him to traffic in drugs and smuggle them across the Panama Canal.

Observers again have established a link between this Zionist role and another similar role, reported previously, in connection with drug smuggling and trafficking in Colombia, hiring out Zionist mercenaries for the benefit of drug gangs, and protecting the leaders of those gangs.

But why does this role elicit only talk, without it being linked to a measure or action by the United States or any other party against these Zionists, whose affiliation with drug gangs in Central America and especially in Panama and Colombia has been confirmed by documents, evidence, and incidents? Why is it their actions, doings, and destructive and subversive practices are overlooked, despite the fact they form the backbone of the drug gangs and the mercenary army protecting those gangs, facilitating their activities, and spreading their poison to the detriment of humanity?

These matters cause bafflement and bewilderment, and persistently raise questions about how seriously and effectively the tracking down of drug smugglers and their mercenaries, especially the Zionists, is being undertaken. When the anti-drug campaign in Colombia was launched, news reports revealed Israeli General Klein [name as published], who was a ranking officer in the Israeli intelligence, took part in training and hiring mercenaries to facilitate the drug smuggling operations. When he was convicted, Klein threatened to expose and bring into the scandal the Israeli officials who provided him with all means of assistance, support, and cover for his role. So the clamor subsided and Shamir hastened to Klein's defense, praising his morals and dedication in the service of the Zionist entity, as well as his relations with Latin American states.

Today, when Gen Noriega has been caught by anti-drug fighters in the United States, it is being pointed out Zionist officers assisted Noriega in drug smuggling and trafficking, and the United States formally has asked Israel to withdraw its mercenaries, who worked for a long time in Panama in the service of Gen Noriega. Reports also mention Mike Harari, who recently was in charge of the operations of the Israeli intelligence, Mosad, in Latin America, and who also is considered Noriega's major adviser. Harari, according to the confession of the enemy radio itself, fled to occupied Palestine before the U.S. invasion toppled Noriega because he knew about it in advance, not only because he had received instructions from the Shamir government or some Israeli officers, but also because he personally was in charge of Noriega's security.

The issue is not confined to Harari. There are other Israeli figures who have played a dangerous, serious, and

dirty role in Panama because of their relations with drug smuggling and trafficking through the Panama Canal. Among those are Ricardo Levi [name as published], who was responsible for tax collection during the reign of Noriega, and Victor Hanunu [name as published], who was appointed by Noriega as mayor of Panama City a few months before the U.S. invasion. All these figures were involved with Noriega in drug smuggling and trafficking.

Despite all these facts, the United States has not acted tangibly, judicially, or legally. Why? This is the question whose answer is linked with the need to cut off not only the tail, but also the head of the snake in the declared all-out war against drug gangs and mercenaries, including the Zionists.

Besharati Arrives for Amal, Hizballah Talks

*LD0701082190 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 GMT
7 Jan 90*

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 7 IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived here Saturday evening for talks with leaders of the two Lebanese Muslim Groups, Amal and Hizballah in continuation of efforts to end fighting between them.

Besharati will also travel to Lebanon to resume his mediation efforts to end the Amal-Hizballah hostilities.

Al-Shar' Supports Iran's Lebanon Peace Moves

*LD0701142890 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT
7 Jan 90*

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 7, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati discussed regional and international issues particularly the Amal-Hizballah fratricide with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here today.

Al-Shar' hailed the Islamic Republic delegation for its efforts to end the dispute between the two Muslim groups in Lebanon, and voiced full support of his country for Besharati's mission.

The two sides termed the continuation of the internecine clashes as "serving the enemies of Islam" and called for an immediate end.

Besharati is visiting Syria for the second time in a week to resolve the differences between the two groups.

Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i last week deplored the clashes between the two groups and called for unity among the Muslims.

Afghanistan

Interim Government Prime Minister on Coup Attempt

LD0901193990 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT
9 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 9, IRNA—In an interview with the bi-lingual weekly "ITTEHAD-E-ISLAMI" [name as received], published in Peshawar, the prime minister of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan [IIGA], Prof 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, in response to a question about recent military coup attempts against the Kabul regime chief Dr. Najib, has stated that, "any change that occurs in Kabul without the consent and knowledge of IIGA, will have no validity and shall be treated as null and void".

He added, "We will consider it as a behind-the-scene Russian plotting and planning". He observed, "Mujahidin are now politically mature enough to discern the enemy's tactics and nefarious designs".

Mr Sayyaf opined that it was the old habit of the Kremlin to sacrifice old puppets for new ones and, therefore, it was not far off if the same thing happened to Dr Najib, as he seems to have fallen out of grace with Russians.

Prof. Sayyaf observed that fundamental changes in Afghanistan were only possible under the leadership of Afghan mujahidin and "we are not going to be tricked by superficial changes in Kabul under the very eyes of Russia."

Prof. Sayyaf, once again renewed his call to Kabul regime Army personnel to atone for their past mistakes by laying down arms to the mujahidin at their nearby strongholds all over the country.

Regarding the preparations for calling a shura (council), at national level, Mr Sayyaf said, "We are nearing the final stage and we are hopeful that a comprehensive and complete strategy will be chalked out very soon".

"This new grand strategy for elections," he observed "will not only satisfy the mujahidin and refugees, but shall also fulfill the true aspirations of our whole nation".

Prof. Sayyaf termed the recent move by French Government to reopen its embassy in Kabul, as "damaging mockery of the loud protestations of Western countries in support of freedom struggles."

Further on Defecting Afghan Army Officers

BK0801150090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
8 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 7—Brig Abdus Sami Azizi of the Afghan Army who defected to Hezb-e Eslami, Afghanistan, said Afghan army was fed up with the bloodshed and wanted termination of war in Afghanistan.

He was addressing a Press conference as spokesman of regime's high-ranking officers who defected to the Hezb-e

These officers included Brig-Jamshid Khan 'Alizada, Brig 'Abdul Kahar of Air Force, Brig Nazar Mohammad of Artillery, Brig Ghulam Mustafa of Air Force, Col 'Abdul Majid Niazi, Col. Mohammad Jan, Maj Ikramuddin, Capt Mohibullah, Capt 'Abdul Karim, Capt Mohammad Ishaq and Senior Capt Mohammad Yaqub. Brig Sami said in all 27 Army officers who represent a big section of Afghan army have defected to Hezb-e Eslami. He said Najib did not depend on Afghan army which was reduced to 40,000 personnel and was running his affairs with the help of 70,000 Guard-i-Khas [special guards] consisted of Jozjani Militiamen, WAD [expansion unknown] people and others. To a question he said Hezb-e Eslami, Afghanistan enjoy influence in almost sixty per cent of the Afghan army.

He said armed clash between Afghan army and Guard-i-Khas can take place any time.

Brig Sami read out names of those 15 officers who were released by Najib administration. The officers included Lt. Gen 'Abdul Haq Sami, head of Ministry of Defence, Maj Mohammad Ibrahim Ministry of Defence, Brig Gen Rehimmuddin Director Planning, Ministry of Education, Brig Gen 'Abdul Haleem Director General Communications, Brig Gen Ozzram, Chief of Communications, Brig. Gen Mohammad Asif, Gen Commander, Col Abdus Rasul of Air Force, Brig Gen Juma Ahmed Assistant Director General of military intelligence, Brig Gen 'Abdul Kadir, Brig Gen Wali Shah, Brig Gen Kharullah, and Brig Najib of Air Force, Brig Najib Ahmed, Deputy Commandant Special Guard and Capt Khan Kadir Technical Officer.

Brig Sami said five of them have refused to take the charge of their offices while Brig. Gen Abdul Rasul was murdered by Najib administration and another general was in state of coma at Kabul General Hospital.

Answering a question he said Najib administration arrested 250 high-ranking army officers on the basis of suspicion but admitted arrests of only 128 officers. He said no one of the army officers attempted any coup. They were only against continuation of war against their own brothers. They also did not want to enhance the number of widows and orphans in Afghanistan which presently were lakhs in Afghanistan.

Council of Ministers Discusses Aid to Provinces

LD0601221290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] The Office of the Council of Ministers reports that on the instruction of Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, dated 4 January 1990, with respect to aiding the people in the northeastern part of the country, a special meeting was conducted this afternoon, chaired by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, with the participation of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and chairman of

the High Council of National Reconciliation; the deputy prime ministers; some ministers; and the heads of related administrations.

To alleviate food shortages and take measures to increase agricultural production in the coming year in the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, Konduz, and Baghlan, issues related to the transportation and distribution of primary goods—including wheat, sugar, butter, tea, salt, medicine, chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, clothing, and blankets—were widely discussed. It was noted to render humanitarian assistance to children, women, and the elderly, it is necessary for the most urgently needed materials to be transported to and distributed in the areas of the mentioned provinces, where people have been faced with serious food shortages because of the limited facilities for transporting goods and communicating with provincial capitals, the severe cold of last spring, and the decrease in agricultural production.

At the meeting, it was decided the Ministries of Commerce, Light Industry, Food, Agriculture and Land Reform, and Public Health, the Direct Cooperation Administration, and the Administration for Preparedness Against Incidents, as well as the Red Crescent Society should take action and use the existing facilities to alleviate the urgent needs of the deserving residents of the mentioned provinces. It was decided the program of assistance covering the period from the present up to the end of 1368 [March 1989-March 1990] will be prepared within a week. Related sources also were assigned special duties related to obtaining international humanitarian aid.

To organize the program of assistance to the people in the northwestern part of the country, special commissions have been set up chaired by deputy prime ministers to determine the real needs of the people in those areas under popular sovereignty and outside it. The commissions also will specify the sources for providing aid and arranging transportation of goods and their distribution through local National Reconciliation Commissions and with the direct participation of local people. It especially will have the cooperation of social personalities, deputies and senators, the imams of mosques, headmen, and local armed commanders.

It was decided at the meeting that the aid program will begin 13 January 1990.

Council of Ministers Executive Committee Meets

*LD0901224190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] The administrative affairs office of the Council of Ministers reports the regular session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee was held this morning in the Council of Ministers Headquarters. The session was chaired by Sultan 'Ali Keshmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, and

attended by deputy prime ministers, some ministers, and heads of departments of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At this session, the work procedure of the government parliamentary relations working group was considered. It was pointed out securing good relations, reciprocally advantageous cooperation, and creating the necessary order in the timely execution of relevant affairs between the government and the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, are regarded objective needs. As far as this point is concerned, the formation of a working group on government parliamentary relations, having a deputy prime minister as chairman and some ministers and department heads as members, was approved and the work procedure of the government parliamentary relations working group was approved.

At today's session, the issue of the foreign currency exchange rate obtained as a result of the export of ginned cotton by gin and press enterprises of the country in 1989-1990 also was considered. Regarding this, the Council of Ministers Executive Committee resolution assigns specific duties to The Afghanistan Bank, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs to ease government subsidies by exchanging foreign currency obtained from the export of ginned cotton and sorting out the debts of The Afghanistan Bank owed by the gin and press enterprises. It meanwhile has been pointed out necessary measures may be taken to sort out the rest of the subsidies to gin and press enterprises by the exchange of foreign currency and to secure balanced and relative profits for the country's gin and press enterprises in consideration of unlike conditions of ginned cotton sales inside and outside the country.

At today's session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee the circumstances of fixing the price of flour imported by the private sector and unloaded in the Kabul bakery combine was considered and instructions were issued to the relevant authorities to pay the price of flour belonging to the private companies which had been delivered to the Kabul bakery combine.

In appointing a commission on reactivation of those productive enterprises of the private sector which were taken over by the government, specific decisions also were made on a number of other issues at this session.

Soviet POW Committee Head Arrives in Kabul

*LD0901190290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] The delegation of the people's committee for saving Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan, headed by Andronov, arrived today in Kabul. The delegation was received at Kabul International Airport by Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, deputy chairman of the Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organization of Afghanistan, and the minister plenipotentiary of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Communications Sets, Missile Bought From Rebels

*LD0601180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Text] Ministry of State Security organs today purchased a (?Sterilla 2) surface-to-air missile and seven U.S.-made communication sets from the armed opposition groups in Paghman District and Jalrez Subdistrict, Wardak Province, according to Decree No 204, dated 10 October 1987.

The BAKHTAR military section reported the purchase price of the surface-to-air missile and communication sets was paid to the opposite side according to the decree.

UNICEF Urged To Intervene in Attacks on Cities

*LD0601201290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Text] The Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent a letter to the central office of UNICEF about rocket attacks by U.S.- and Pakistan-backed extremists on residential areas in cities, where they cause death and injury to hundreds of innocent children. The central office of UNICEF is requested to take urgent action, using its position of protecting children to stop these savage attacks, which result from the dispatch of lethal weaponry by warmongering circles, and to grant humanitarian aid.

India

Bhutto Special Envoy Meets With Officials

'New Initiatives' on Normalization

*BK0901130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to launch new initiatives to speed up the process of normalization in their relations.

This was decided during extensive talks between the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, and the visiting envoy of Pakistan prime minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, in New Delhi today.

Both sides have decided to convene secretary-level committees of home, defense, and other departments soon to pave the way for the ministerial-level joint commission meeting which last met 6 months ago.

Several issues, including the spurt in the terrorist activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, also came up for discussion. The two sides also considered ways and means of moving forward in normalizing relations and relax restrictions on trade and travel. Consular matters and cultural exchange programs between the two nations also figured at the talks.

Meets External Affairs Minister

*BK0901154190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] Abdul Sattar, the prime minister's special envoy, called on Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral in New Delhi today. They agreed to launch new initiatives to speed up the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. It has also been agreed to convene foreign, defense, interior, and water resources secretary-level meetings as early as possible to facilitate the preliminary preparations for the next session of the joint ministerial commission to be held in New Delhi.

The two sides also exchanged views on easing restrictions on travel, trade, exchange of cultural delegations, and consular affairs.

Abdul Sattar later told the Radio Pakistan correspondent in New Delhi that a number of other matters relating to Indian-Pakistani relations were also reviewed during the meeting. He said that Pakistan has taken a clear stand on the Jammu and Kashmir issue, which has time and again been repeated by the Government of Pakistan, adding that the solution to this issue should be sought in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The special envoy said that the Indian external affairs minister has told him that India is deeply interested in restoring good-neighborly relations with Pakistan.

Abdul Sattar also called on Indian Railways Minister George Fernandes. He will call on Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Atal Behari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani and Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh as well.

Delivers Message to Prime Minister

*BK1001091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] The visiting envoy of the Pakistani prime minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, called on the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi today. Mr Sattar is understood to have delivered a personal message from the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to Mr V.P. Singh.

King, Foreign Minister of Bhutan Arrive

*BK0601085490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Text] The Bhutan King, Mr Jigme Singye Wangchuk, arrived in New Delhi on a 4-day visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral.

The king will call on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and meet the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in the evening. He is accompanied by the foreign minister, Mr Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, and the deputy planning minister, Mr (Darsho Dorji).

Commentary Urges Support for Burmese People*BK0701114090 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Commentary by B.D. Arora: "Developments in Burma—Implications for India"]

[Text] On 4 January, Burma, renamed Myanma, celebrated its independence day, keeping in view protocol formalities. Virtually all diplomatic missions sent their representatives to participate in the celebrations. It did not matter much to them that Burma's unconstitutional authoritarian military junta continued to repress the Burmese people.

Since Brigadier General Saw Maung usurped power on 18 September 1988, the State Law and Order Restoration Council formed by him has been killing the young students in thousands, suppressing the nascent prodemocracy movement, fully controlling the press and the flow of information, curbing any kind of political dissent, and imprisoning the political leaders. Political situation has thus remained oppressive and uncertain. This has thrown a pall of gloom over the prospects of democracy in Burma.

When he took over power, Saw Maung had promised general elections as soon as stability was restored. The military leaders now claim that a reasonable measure of stability has been achieved; so, the decision to hold elections on 27th May this year. In a show of democratic convictions, they have lifted restrictions on five opposition leaders who have joined a parallel government under former Premier U Nu to contest the elections. But, this is a mere show. The most popular leaders, like Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin U of the National League for Democracy and U Nu and his supporters, continue to be under house arrest. In their absence, the elections, even if held, will be to ensure popular mandate for the National Unity Party—the other name of Burma Socialist Program Party—which the military junta under General Ne Win have been using as a channel for legitimizing itself since the military coup in March 1962. The devious methods of keeping the leaders away from the people and creating dissensions in the ranks of fractured opposition are just to ensure the continuance of more than a quarter century of military rule.

In the meanwhile, people continue to suffer all deprivations, degradations, and humiliations. The all-oppressive denial of human rights—both political, economic, and sociocultural—over a long period of time has only dehumanized the people. They need urgent and all kinds of help. India can surely play a comprehensive and meaningful role.

Sharing centuries of religious, cultural value system and having a long land and maritime boundary with Burma, India's concerns about developments in that country are quite natural. The two countries have been cooperating for long in anti-smuggling and anti-insurgency—both ethnic and communist—measures for mutual benefit. As

early as 1948, the year of Burma's independence, India had rendered valuable material support to save Rangoon, renamed Yangon, from falling to the insurgents. But, when the young Burmese boys and girls have been brutally massacred, human rights denied, sentiments of democracy choked in spirit, India can no longer afford to be silent. Perhaps, it is not well realized in India that by suppressing prodemocracy movements, the military junta has alienated the Burman ethnic core groups, which constitute about 70 percent of the total population of that country. This should be seen in the backdrop of continuous alienation of multiethnic groups, such as the Chin, Shan, Kachin, Karen, etcetera. It simply means that a military government whose leaders are sure to earn in history the title of butchers are isolated from the general mass of people and hence cannot remain in saddle for long.

It is, therefore, incumbent on the new leadership in Delhi to devise a new all-comprehensive strategy to help and promote prodemocracy elements in and around Burma and in the world. Mere condemnation will not do. Nonaction at this stage will lead to Burmese students joining hands with insurgent forces. There are clear signals about it, creating complex problems for our future relations with Burma.

At present, the most important contribution from India and the world community at large would be to see that military junta honors its commitments to hold the elections in May this year, convene the new national assembly for drafting a constitution, and permit the formation of a civilian government. With the military remaining in power, this is bound to remain a long, tortuous process. And yet there seems to be the only hope for the Burmese people—their hope for the military to go to the barracks, the hope for democracy, the hope for survival.

4 Members of Antarctic Expedition Killed*BK0901150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] Four members of the Indian Antarctica expedition have been killed following gas poisoning. Official reports reaching New Delhi say the tragedy occurred at the Humboldt mountain range of the icy continent.

Those killed are Mr V.K. Srivastava, Mr A.K. Vedi, Mr B.L. Sharma of the Geological Survey of India, and Mr M.C. Joshi of the Indian Navy's communication unit. They were part of the ninth Indian expedition which had gone to the Antarctica last November. All the other members of the 70-member Indian contingent are safe.

Central Intelligence Official Killed in Kashmir*BK0901125090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an official of the Central Intelligence Bureau was shot dead today by some unidentified gunmen at Bherwar in Badgam District.

Indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar City and some other major towns. Army and paramilitary forces are patrolling the curfew-bound towns. Brij Behara Town was brought under indefinite curfew today following incidents of heavy stone pelting. Police fired in the air to disperse unruly mobs.

Two explosions—one in Sopor and another in Pulwama—occurred late last night, causing minor damage to two buildings.

2 Buildings Set on Fire; Explosion in Kashmir

*BK1001080390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, miscreants set on fire buildings of the Punjab National Bank and the Block Development Office in Srinagar last night. They also attempted to set ablaze a girls school building in the Naopura area. In Saura area of Srinagar, an explosion took place in the building of the State Bank of India, causing minor damage.

Bomb Kills Punjab Police Commandant, 2 Others

*BK1001074790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] In Punjab, the commandant of the 75th Battalion of Punjab Armed Police and former senior superintendent of police of Batala, Mr Govind Ram, and two other persons were killed in a bomb blast in his office in Jullundur this afternoon. According to an official spokesman, the blast took place at 1215, causing extensive damage to the office building.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Address to Qom Citizens

*LD0901143390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, during a meeting with Qom citizens on 9 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all I would like to welcome you dear brothers and sisters, the brave and aware people of Qom who always have been on the frontline of the struggles of the nation of Iran. At this same point I offer my sincere greetings to all the inhabitants of Qom and various strata of that power center of Islam. To erect a new building one first must lay down its firm foundations. The firmer and stronger the foundations of a building, the higher that building can rise and the longer its life will be. If we were to compare the struggle of the Iranian nation, which began publicly and decisively in the year 1356 [year beginning 21 March 1977] and led to the revolution victory—and thus struggle has continued for nearly 11 years by this date—if we were to imagine this [struggle]

as a high-rise and strong building [then] the firm, invincible, and everlasting foundations of this strong building was laid in Qom. It began in Qom, and you were the people who promoted the message of blood and uprising first in the entire country and later all over the world. Qom was a divine resource for Islam. Almost 70 years ago, the Qom Seminary was founded by a great man, one of those chosen by God, the late Grand Ayatollah Ha'eri. The Qom Seminary was created as a center for all applicants [wishing to study divinity]. About 40 years later, the Islamic movement started in Qom. One of the disciples of that great man's school was the same exceptional outstanding figure of our history, that is, our leader and late imam, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni [long shouts of greetings from the audience], may God bless his pure soul and promote his words, which hoisted the flag of Islamic struggle in Qom. If we were to view this in a historic perspective, it appears the frits ripened in abundance in a short time. That is, the period between laying the foundations of the seminary until its active involvement in the arena was only 40 years, which is a short time in the life of a nation. After the start of this movement up to now—a period of about 30 years—you have witnessed what degree Islam, the Koran, and the Islamic values have reached in the world. The group of people who looked after this seminary, assisted it, welcomed its members in their homes, accepted the religious students in their midst as their own sons and brothers, gave refuge to the first pioneer soldiers of this movement—that is, the religious students of Qom, who we ourselves witnessed—and gave the first martyrs, who when it was agreed to raise the tide of the movement, were the people of Qom. One must not and cannot forget this in our country's and our revolution's history.

In the history of our country, this should not be forgotten. We are not saying this because we are talking to the people of Qom. It is a sacred and invaluable fact which should remain in the revolution as a clear line and be marked in the history of the revolution.

A lesson we must learn from it is that just as the people of Qom accepted this Good Tree [Koranic expression] helped it, safeguarded it, defended it and, at the right time, when it was necessary, took the first step toward the great Islamic jihad and, as they always remained on the front line, at war, in the political arena, and everywhere else, after the victory of the revolution, they also should take the same stance in the future.

Qom always must remain that stormy sea in which every opposition current is dispersed. It always must remain that plentiful river which sends its Islamic blessings and vestiges all over our Islamic homeland and beyond.

Qom is the center of Islam and the revolution, because it seats the seminary; because it is a center for great 'ulema; because it nurtures people who can guide the revolution, the country, and people of all ranks.

You, the people, youths, men, women, and hezbollahis of Qom, always must maintain that same spirit that safeguards these values, as enthusiastically and sincerely as ever. [crowd chants]

One point about the general responsibilities of the people should be noted. We Muslims, we Iranians, followed our great imam and staged the revolution, and the people lost their lives and suffered. For what purposes? The purpose of all these great events, which have been guided by God since the first day, was to revive the good spirit of Islam in this country, this house of Islam. We set out to make the bright sun of Islam shine in the midst of the gloom of ignorance in the 20th century. When mankind had lost faith in different ideologies, from the evil capitalism of the West to the apostate communism of the East, we set out to show mankind this revitalizing ideology, this healthy, desirable and sweet way of life, this good Islamic life.

During the past 11 years, in whatever aspect we have progressed in the name of Islam, life has become sweet. In any area we have not succeeded to move toward Islam, life has remained hard and bitter.

Islamic life is the Good Life [Koranic expression], a clean life, which makes existence sweet, which gives one a sense of serenity and peace. By setting up an Islamic system and government, we have come close to Islam. Our authorities and officials have observed the [Islamic] values as far as possible, to what extent life has become sweet in this aspect. In the past and present, the rulers everywhere have been and remain haughty, oppressive, and isolated from the people; they serve their own personal interests. We had witnessed this in our own country during the reign of the previous regime, and now we witness the same thing in many parts, if not every part, of the world. That does not exist in Iran.

Today the authorities and officials in our country, those who have important responsibilities, are clean, devout and pious; they belong to the people and are with the people. In that respect, and to the extent we have come closer to the people, the people feel calm and peaceful.

By driving corruption and prostitution away from the people, we have come a little closer to Islam. Our youths have achieved psychological and spiritual good health and are free of vanity, moral corruption, doubts, and disappointments in life.

In those parts of our economy where Islamic policies were implemented, we came closer to Islam. In those areas the people feel a sense of peace and calm. In any other area where we have not adopted Islamic ways the people's lives are as hard and unpleasant as ever. Those who are involved in analysis, logic, and discussion can make a list to clarify it for the people. We must reach the source of Islam for life totally to become sweet.

The holy Koran says: Those pious people say prayers, pay their religious dues, and urge others to do what is commanded by religion and to abstain from what is

forbidden! [last sentence in Arabic] I want to remind you and the Iranian nation of that forgotten Islamic demand: Urge people to do what is commanded and abstain from the forbidden. Every single person must respect the duty of urging people to do good deeds and to refrain from the forbidden. [crowd chants in support] That will guarantee the continuation of the pure line of the prophet in the Islamic system. Let us act upon it so we may see the results.

Urging people to do what is commanded has a verbal stage and a practical stage. The practical stage—that is, practical action, forceful action—is the responsibility of the government today and it must take place with government permission and not otherwise. Saying it verbally, however, is incumbent on everyone, and everyone must do that without exception.

There was a time if someone committed a wrongful action and another person protested, the ruling system would crush the protest. We saw instances of that. If a sin was committed, the sinner was encouraged, but the protester to the sin was crushed. Today it is the opposite. That is not to say there is no sin in society today; there is. Under the rule of the Lord of the Believers [Imam 'Ali] sin existed in society. What is important, however, is the ruling system, the machinery ruling society—those who are responsible for running and governing the country—tend toward rectitude and are opposed to sin and wrongful action.

Telling the sinner of the sin in kind words, in an appropriate language—sometimes with harsh words, in cases where it will not create a problem—will reduce sin in society and will isolate and weaken it. Why do we neglect doing that?

Every person in the workplace, at home, in a gathering of friends, in school and university, wherever they may be, let them say to the sinner if they witness a sin, what you have done is wrong from the point of view of Islam. That is all. Just one word. If a variety and a number of voices say something when a sin is committed, the sinner on the whole will stop committing sins and wrongful deeds; whether it be a violation of shari'a [Islamic law] or a violation of the laws.

Let me say to you this also is the case at the international level. Even those bullies who rule the world's big powers today—if the nations said something to them, if they protested—they would reduce their bullying a bit. See what the world's big powers are doing today! See how the U.S. imperial power, equipped with wealth and might, treats nations, governments, values, the people's wealth throughout the world!

I believe of course this is the height, and therefore, the end of corruption. I believe the amount of injustice committed in the world today through bullying by the powerful—and at their head, the United States—is a sign of the fact they are at the end of the road. It is a sign they are on the decline. I have no doubt they are going through the days of maximum power, that is, the final

days of power. In the end, the world will not stand for it. Nations will not stand for it.

Today's U.S. regime was established and came to power through the perseverance, initiative, and enthusiasm of people many years ago, and it is moving toward weakness through the stupidity, shamelessness, and impetuosity of its leaders today. It will founder! [crowd chants in support: Death to America]

If in the face of these acts of careless disregard and aggression—that shamelessness—the people of the world, governments, and nations stood up and said something, they would be halted. We, the Iranian nation, will, of course, not remain silent. We will not follow the example of other nations and other governments, and we will not praise them. We perform our duty.

We have been able to stop many acts of aggression in the world until today, with Islamic strength, reliance on God, the unity and cohesion of our nation, and the clarity of the path before us, which we do not doubt. We will continue to perform our duty, and we believe nations will become aware, one after the other, with every passing day. We see signs of that.

What is important is the Iranian nation should maintain its revolutionary spirit and fervor. You must maintain your courage. This nation, this revolution, and this country have been able to come this far, in the first instance, based on the courage of that great leader [Khomeyni] who possessed a courage similar to that of the prophets and the great saints of God, and in the second instance based on the courage of every individual. Strength and courage, not afraid of anything but God, and maintaining revolutionary fervor will allow us to obtain all our goals, with God's assistance and blessings.

I sincerely thank you dear brothers and sisters, the faithful and hezbollahi people of Qom, especially the eminent and honorable clergymen, the honorable families of the martyrs and dear combatants for troubling yourselves and coming here in this cold and snowy weather. My advice and my message is this: That the people of Qom and every individual always should maintain revolutionary dignity, fervor, manner of behavior and courage, and rely on God, knowing with God's will, success belongs to this nation. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [crowd chants: We are all your soldiers, Khamene'i; we await your commands, Khamene'i]

Karrubi Addresses Majles on Support for Khamene'i

*LD0901123590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] During this morning's open Majles session, referring to the message by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Majles Speaker Karrubi stressed that the vice regency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] is the basis of the Islamic Republic system. All our organizations stem from it and owe their legitimacy to it.

He added that for this reason the Majles obeys and follows the jurisconsult [Khamene'i]. If the leader deems an issue appropriate, the Majles will definitely obey and follow it. He said that when the leader of a society calls on everyone to unite, God forbid if certain people try to use holy institutes to settle personal scores.

Anyone who is a follower of the revolution and is in line with the imam is no doubt a follower of the jurisconsult, accepts the leader wholeheartedly, and is proud that one of the imam's best followers and pupils has succeeded him as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Karrubi stressed. He added that one should remember how, in 1979-80, the imam stood up to those who considered the vice regency of the jurisconsult dictatorship, and said: They do not understand the meaning of the vice regency of the jurisconsult.

Karrubi said: We all follow the jurisconsult. Others should rest assured that this Majles also follows the jurisconsult.

According to our correspondent's report on Majles support for the country's executive officials, the Majles speaker stressed: I assure our dear leader that the Majles has stood alongside the government since the outset of the revolution. And now that the best and dearest of people is in charge of the country's executive branch [Hashemi-Rafsanjani]—for whom everybody voted—it is everyone's religious, revolutionary, and Islamic duty to assist him to solve the problems in the best possible manner.

Referring to the deputies' efforts to appraise the eligibility of members of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet, to give them votes of confidence, and also their efforts to appraise the bill on the country's 5-year economic and social development plan, the Majles speaker said: We assure our dear leader that the Majles is at all times ready to cooperate. Without doubt, any criticism or comments, for or against, are made with compassion, and are in the interests of the system.

Referring to remarks by his eminence the late Imam Khomeyni about the importance of the Majles, he said: We should not forget that, in 1979, despite all the hue and cry raised by various groups, the imam stressed the importance of the role of the Majles, saying: Try to create a strong Majles in the line of Islam and the jurisconsult, for such a Majles will safeguard the Islamic revolution with the leader.

Finally, the Majles speaker honored the anniversary of 9 January. He noted that the uprising of the people of Qom and the martyrdom of Haj Mostafa Khomeyni [Khomeyni's eldest son] sparked off the revolution, and thanks to the resolve and self-sacrifices of the people and the clergy the revolution was triumphant. He also thanked Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni for replying to a letter from the deputies on the need to safeguard the imam's works.

Yazdi Reiterates Public Support for Khamene'i*LD0901114390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] On the occasion of the day of God of 9 January, the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Qom against the tyrannic Pahlavi regime, Mr Yazdi, head of the judicial power, gave a message honoring the memory of this great day. The message, in part, says: This day is reminiscent of the steadfastness and self-sacrifice of the religious students, the clergy, and the people of Qom against agents of the tyrannical monarchy regime. Thanks to the bloodshed of that day, a new chapter opened in the Islamic revolution movement under the leadership of his holiness imam, may God sanctify his dust. This pursued the same line of the blood's victory over the sword.

Mr Yazdi, in his message, stressed: The prime soul of all these movements emerged from the principle of obeying the jurisconsult and leadership. Today, again, our people all over the world are committed to the leadership and the vice regency of the jurisconsult, the same as they were on that day. They believe the government's legitimacy depends on this. On the same basis they deem it their duty to support the country's authorities. During 10 years of resistance and selflessness they demonstrated in practice that they stood beside the founder of the Islamic Republic, his holiness the imam, may God sanctify his lofty dust. Today, too, they obey the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow continue, in the status of the imam and the title of leadership and jurisconsult.

Foreign Ministry Official Departs for Moscow*LD0601122290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Text] Mr Va'ez, the European and American affairs under secretary of our country's Foreign Ministry, left for Moscow at the head of a diplomatic delegation this morning to meet and hold talks with high-ranking Soviet officials.

According to our correspondent's report, the Foreign Ministry European and American under secretary bears a message from Foreign Minister Velayati to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in reply to his recent letter about mutual ties and UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Ministry Delegation in Baku for Tourism Talks*LD0901132790 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—An Iranian delegation currently in the Soviet Union to hold talks with Soviet officials on providing facilities in the field of tourism, arrived in Baku, capital of the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, Tuesday [9 January]. The delegation, headed by the director of the Consular Affairs Department of the

Iranian Foreign ministry, Tofu Massuleh, was welcomed by the deputy foreign minister of Azerbaijan Republic and other local tourism officials.

The two sides are expected to hold talks on the exchange of tourists between Iran and the Soviet Union.

The Iranian delegation has already held talks with the Soviet consular officials in Moscow. It also signed an agreement in Moscow according to which the two countries will open tourism offices in each country.

A Soviet delegation is due to visit Tehran in a near future to exchange views on tourism.

Paper Comments on Situation Along USSR Border*NC0901102690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
6 Jan 90 pp 2, 7*

[Editorial: "Kremlin Should Show Understanding for Muslim Grievances"]

[Text] Tension has been simmering in the Soviet Azerbaijan, Nakhichevan region in particular, during recent weeks. The Wednesday [3 January] and yesterday's attack of people on Soviet border guards, destruction of border installations in the area to cross the borders into Iran are fraught with implications. [sentence as published] Actually some Azerbaijani youths did cross the border river, the Aras, and landed in the Islamic Republic.

The Soviet Azerbaijan was part of Iran before the latter lost the territory to the Czarist Russia in the 19th Century as part of war reparations agreed upon in Golestan and Torkmanchai Pact.

As such the territory which later became the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic has historical religious and cultural ties to Iran's Azerbaijan that constitutes its southern neighbor.

In the first decades that followed the separation of the two Azerbaijan to-and-fro trips between the two provinces were quite common place. But after the World War II and towards the end of the Stalin's rule when the dictator planned for the annexation of Iran's Azerbaijan to the Soviet territory a puppet organization named Azerbaijan's Democratic Party was set up to carry out the plan which fortunately did not succeed.

In the aftermath of these developments a lot of constraints were imposed on the popular traffic between the two historically interwoven territories.

Stalin's outright suppression of non-Russian people was regrettable followed too by his successors and in this connection Muslims bore the brunt of organized suppressive measures, probably more than any other ethnic groups in the USSR.

But a lot of water has now passed under the bridge with the sweeping changes unleashed in the whole Soviet Bloc

by President Mikhail Gorbachev. The winds of freedom are blowing from every direction; winds that have taken on the form of storms in some countries. Soviet southern republics too seem to have been, as was quite expected, exposed to the call of time, change.

History is rife with examples of the see-saw battle between suppressive regimes and popular revolts as their natural outcome. Every time there is a relentless suppression, there follows a popular rebellion which in its own turn might at times resort to extremist measures.

Political scientists have usually taken such uncontrollable measures as "natural phenomena" when seen against the then existing circumstances that dictate such impulsive acts.

Now what should be done in the face of the Azerbaijani unrest? The most logical thing, it seems, that can be done by Iranian and Soviet authorities, before popular moves such as unauthorized border crossings get out of hand is to allow free travel between the two provinces.

An agreement in this connection between the two governments in the light of full respect for one another's total sovereignty will greatly help to alleviate the seething emotions of people who wish to see their ancestral land and visit long-lost relatives. The Kremlin should avoid suppressing Azerbaijani people at all costs.

Iranian authorities have indeed already begun moves for preparing grounds for Azerbaijani Muslims' visit to Iran's cultural and religious sites and institutions.

This should not of course be exclusive to Azerbaijan. Iran and USSR have a 2200-kilometer border line. On the Soviet side, along this long border, sit Russian provinces whose people wish to visit relatives and Muslim brothers in Iran. If the situation is handled smoothly and logically it will only enhance cultural relations between the two neighbors.

Gatherings of Azerbaijanis Along Border Noted

*LD0901203190 Tehran International Service
in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90*

[Text] Muslim demonstrations in Azerbaijan have not ended after a week, but they have become less acute with the announcement of the signing of an agreement with the Islamic Republic permitting movement by individuals. On the evening of 7 January, gatherings appeared at the border during which hundreds of persons chanted Islamic calls demanding the opening of the border. We review the event in this report:

The acuteness of demonstrations and meetings held by Azerbaijani Muslims on the border with the Islamic Republic has declined. It was noticed on 7 January that the lack of reaction by Soviet border forces and talks between Azerbaijani Muslims and Iranian citizens on the banks of the Aras River have to a great extent contributed to calming the feeling of anger which had characterized the demonstrations in the (?Donbalan),

Poldahst, and Jolfa, which are joint regions between Soviet Azerbaijan and Iranian Azarbayjan. They chanted Islamic slogans like "God is great" and the meeting continued until dark. They talked for 4 hours with relatives in Iran who had gathered at the border in the piercing cold. The Azerbaijani Muslims brought women and children with them, and a cargo train made a stop in the area for 5 minutes and blew its whistle loudly as an expression of satisfaction and solidarity.

The Azerbaijanis brought with them a jeep carrying loudspeakers. One of them delivered a speech in which he expressed regret that the Muslims of Azerbaijan were not able to provide assistance to the Iranian people during the war. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published the text of the speech by this Azerbaijani Muslim by the name of (Ramizov). He began his speech with the words: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. He explained the stages of Islamic history in his speech and praised the late Imam Khomeyni, whose leadership of the Iranian revolution he described as a fourth revolution in the life of Muslims. (Ramizov) confirmed that the Azerbaijani Muslims had removed all the barbed wire and that they want to spend the Iranian new year with their relatives in Iranian Azerbaijan and to have free economic and cultural exchanges. An IRNA correspondent counted 30 government vehicles and 20 private ones bringing Azerbaijani demonstrators to the bank of the Aras River—all of them were big passenger vehicles. Karim Shafi'i, Marand city Majlis representative, confirmed in a speech across the border to the Azerbaijani demonstrators the need to discuss the issue of border crossing with local officials in order to make it legal. Thirteen Azerbaijani Muslims crossed the Aras River despite the freezing cold and met with relatives in Iran. A number of them returned under the eyes of the Soviet border guards and Azerbaijani citizens, while some remained because of the river's extremely cold waters.

These events point to the depth of the emotional and religious link between Muslims on either side of the river, while the Azerbaijani national feelings have become part of their identity. Marxism has failed for 70 years to destroy this identity. Its revival is very strong within the context of a general phenomenon which encompasses all Muslims. It is one of the factors in the changing international situation, which would not expect to witness such a change had it not been for the state of Islamic awakening, whose geographic area has widened.

It has been noticed, however, that western media strive to exploit these events in Soviet Azerbaijan to achieve its objectives and purposes—stressing the national aspect greatly while ignoring the extent of the injustice which Muslims suffered. What is needed now is more religious and political freedom, the reopening of mosques, the lifting of censorship, and the allowing of Muslims to express their Islamic feelings.

Afghanistan Research Center Conference Conducted*LD0501173690 Tehran Television Service
in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] Officials from Shiite and Sunni parties, religious seminaries, universities, and Afghan scholars and students specializing in Afghan issues attended the first major Afghanistan Research Center conference at the center. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, representative of esteemed leader [Khamene'i] also attended.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi during the meeting first talked about the goals behind the center's establishment, as well as cooperation between Shiite and Sunni parties, and Afghan scholars and experts. Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansur, leader of the Islamic Revolution Movement [Harakat-e Engelab-e Eslami] of Afghanistan; Sirat Talegani; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Gholam Hoseyn Musavi talked about the importance of research and study of Afghan issues, and the need for unity among Afghan mujahidin. Representatives of the nine-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin; the Islamic Revolution Movement led by Mowlavi Mansur; the Islamic Unity Call [Da'iyeye Ettehad-e Eslami] led by Qazi Amin; the Islamic Revolution Movement led by Mowlavi Mo'azzen; and Fath al-Mohin Front [Jebhe-ye Fath al-Mobin], led by Mawlawi Osman also participated.

Turkish Transport Minister Arrives in Tehran*NC0701083590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Text] Mr Cengiz Tuncer, the Turkish minister of transport and communications, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic delegation. He will participate in a joint commission session on transport between Iran and Turkey and discuss ways and means of bilateral cooperation. Our colleague Khameneh spoke to Mr Sa'idi-Kya, our roads and transport minister, at the time of the arrival of the Turkish transport and communications minister. We invite you to listen to this interview:

[Khameneh] Mr Cengiz Tuncer, the Turkish minister for transport and communications, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic delegation and was welcomed by Mr Sa'idi-Kya, our roads and transport minister. The Turkish minister for transport and communications will hold talks with our officials to discuss bilateral cooperation in the field of road, rail, air, and sea transportation links and communications in the year 1990.

On his arrival in Tehran, Mr Tuncer referred to the talks on mutual transport problems which have been in progress between experts of the two countries in a friendly atmosphere in Tehran for the past 2 days. He said: We hope that in this round of talks we will reach complete and positive agreement on the transit of goods through Turkey and the transportation of cargo from the Black Sea coast to Iran.

Mr Sa'idi-Kya mentioned the axes which will feature in the latest round of talks at the session of the joint commission on transport. He said:

[Begin recording] Transport facilities between Iran and Turkey are important for both sides. It is for this reason that a joint commission on transport was established between the two countries some time ago, but some problems had arisen. We therefore invited Mr Tuncer, Turkey's new minister for transport and communications, to visit Iran, and he has just arrived. His deputy came to Iran 2 days ago with some of his colleagues. They held talks on sea, air, road, and rail transportation links in an atmosphere of complete concurrence. The talks were marked by efforts on the part of both countries to resolve the problems. We have attained useful results and we hope that the spirit that prevails on the other side will continue so in the future we may go on improving the transport situation between the two countries. [end recording]

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani*LD0701113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Tuncer, Turkey's transport minister, before noon today. In that meeting, at which the Roads and Transport Minister Sa'idi-Kya was also present, Turkey's minister of transport, having conveyed the greetings and message of Turkey's President Turgut Ozal, expressed desire for the expansion and strengthening of the two countries' relations and the utilization of their existing facilities as a means of expanding bilateral relations, specifically in the field of transportation. He added: The grounds exist for favorable activities to be conducted by both countries in the field of transportation, and visits by officials for both countries will remove any potential problems.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, too, in that meeting, while expressing his gratitude for the Turkish president's greetings and message, graciously said: The capacity for cooperation between Iran and Turkey could increase to a level above the present one, however minor incidents had always prevented the full usage of that capacity. Referring to the ideological and extremely affectionate links between the Iranian and Turkish people, he graciously said: We see no reason the two neighboring Islamic countries of Iran and Turkey should not employ their facilities to each other's advantage.

Remarking on the Turkish president's desire to expand the two countries' relations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that Tuncer's visit will bring about fruitful results for future relations between the two countries.

Va'ez, Bulgarian Envoy Discuss Muslims' Rights

*LD0401181590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] In Tehran this morning, Bulgarian Ambassador Gospodinov met with Mr Va'ez, our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of Europe and America. In an exchange of views, Mr Gospodinov submitted a report on the current developments in his country, as all as the Bulgarian Government's recent decisions on improving the conditions of Bulgarian Muslims.

According to the Central News Unit, the Bulgarian ambassador referred during the meeting to the recent statement by his country's new government, condemning the actions of the former government. He described the formation of a committee of national reconciliation in Bulgaria, enabling the Muslims to achieve their rights and allowing them to choose Islamic names. He stressed the new government's desire to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

Mr Va'ez, our country's deputy foreign minister, while welcoming the course of changes in Bulgaria, especially with regard to the freedom of Muslims to perform their rites, said: In light of its Islamic nature, the IRI is always very interested in the fate, rights, and demands of Muslims in different countries of the world. We hope that the course of the current developments in Eastern Europe will pave the way for the freedom of Muslims in gaining their legitimate rights and in performing their religious rites and injunctions, and that the difficulties with which the Bulgarian Muslims are faced will be solved as the result of the measures taken by your new government, so that the Muslims may enjoy complete equality of rights and have a share in the running of their own affairs and the affairs of their country, like all other citizens.

Editorial on Syrian-Egyptian Reconciliation

*NC0501113890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Jan 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "On Syria's Mending Fences With Egypt"]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's recent Cairo trip to prepare the grounds for a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak, is an important regional development. This event certainly has a bearing on the Lebanese and Palestinian issues one way or another.

Earlier the Casablanca Arab Summit Conference in mid-1989 had allowed Egypt to return to the Arab fold after an 11-year absence. This had been followed by some sort of upheaval that necessitated a change in Syrian policy to align itself in greater proportions with regional and international situation.

At that time Syria was under severe regional pressure, coming directly from Iraq and indirectly from some moderate Arab countries to reduce its role in Lebanon,

and especially to end its marine blockade of East Beirut. Among Western governments, France had threatened to interfere in Lebanon in support of the deposed rebellious army, Commander Gen. Michel 'Awn and the Christian forces in general. Western media too were employed to attack left and right the Syrian policy in Lebanon and the region. These developments at the time had seriously damaged the Syrian position.

But with rather clever maneuverings the Syrians managed to extricate themselves from the mesh of all these pressures without really giving any considerable concession.

By winning Libya's agreement for Egypt's return to the Arab League Syria indeed struck a highly beneficial dealing [as published] in its own favor.

By and large as far as the unity of Muslim countries are concerned one cannot oppose Syrian attempts at mending fences with Egypt. If such moves are meant to consolidate Muslim positions in world politics, they are all fine and welcome.

But one thing should be the centerpiece of these policies: Nothing and no individual political gain should ever divert the attention of Muslim nations from Islam's strategic objectives. Topping these objectives is of course the struggle against the Zionists and their overseas backers and mentors.

Besharati Interviewed on Peace Talks Prospects

*LD0601105190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Interviewed with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I thank His Excellency Besharati, senior deputy minister of foreign affairs. Undoubtedly, the diplomatic trend of the West and East, prior to Iran's acceptance of the resolution, was moving toward bringing the war to an end but ensuring that the war would have no military winner. Now, under the prevailing conditions and with the existing barriers to the course of peace talks between Iran and Iraq, how do you, Your Excellency, assess the role of the arrogant powers in either continuing to impose or removing these barriers?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An assessment of factors which caused the deadlock in the negotiations would be useless unless one considers the motives which brought about the war.

We know that the war was imposed on us at a time when all the conspiracies, plots and, to quote (Higgins), who was the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires in Tehran, the whole scenario to restore the situation in the interests of Western arrogance failed to yield results. It is natural

that the military attack was the summation of all the plots, attacks and designs by the arrogance to restore the situation to normalcy.

If anyone believes that the continuation of the war or the slogans which chanted during the war or indeed the interference or Iran's presence and occupation in some parts of Iraqi territory caused the international pressure against Iran, then they are making a big mistake. Even if we had stayed on our side, even if after the "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operation—leading to the liberation of Khorramshahr—we had not engaged in the hot pursuit of the Iraqi forces, they would not have given us anything. Even then the pressures would have continued.

Now, for certain reasons we have accepted the cease-fire. However, no one should think that those powers, who are members of the Security Council... [sentence incomplete as heard] Those very same powers imposed the war on us to break the Islamic revolution. Would those countries be ready to adopt measures in our interests? Would they do something which the trend of affairs might continue in the interests of our nation and the Islamic revolution? Not at all. Before we accepted the cease-fire we said—as evidence by the minutes of the Council of Deputies talks—that even if we accepted the cease-fire, the imperialists would not give us anything.

If now we witness a blatant halt and severe obstructionism by Iraq to the talks on Resolution 598, this must not be regarded as something abnormal. Resolution 598 is a resolution they approved by themselves. Every delegation, going anywhere, constantly harped on the theme that Resolution 598 was the best solution to bringing the war to an end. But we witnessed that the powers who imposed the war on us then approved of Resolution 598 to bring the hostilities to an end. They are now the same ones who now are resorting to obstructionism.

Therefore, everything is obvious. At the time when the groups, parties and counterrevolutionary elements were creating trouble, when our territory was occupied, and now that there is obstructionism in the peace talks—they are all aimed at one objective. And any figure which is multiplied by zero will be zero. All these facts call on us to be ready for more self-sacrifice, to be more alert and to be more attentive in our defense of the Islamic revolution—the Islamic revolution which has dealt the greatest blow on them. They are frightened more than ever before of the Islamic revolution and its expansion and bases and status.

Besharati Comments on Peace Prospects With Iraq

LD1001095990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] At this point we draw your attention to some remarks made by brother Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, of the Islamic Republic's position on Resolution 598.

[Correspondent] Thank you for allocating some of your time to this program. The behavior of Iraqi officials during the course of the peace talks indicates that Iraq is still committed to its expansionist aims. What policies, in your opinion, should be adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to secure an exact and speedy implementation of the resolution?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We are quite serious about the talks. We desire peace, and the world which saw our holy defense for 8 years is now observing our endeavors in reconstruction. We have repaired our most vulnerable industrial complex, Abadan's oil refinery, faster than anywhere else in order to show that we are serious about peace. It is natural that we continue thinking of the peace talks. We hope that the Iraqi regime will also realize that it will not gain anything by maintaining tension and the "no peace, no war" situation, particularly because the regional countries are very concerned about the situation. They know that if the flames of war were to rise again, God forbid, this time the remnants of their economic interests would be destroyed.

As a whole, there are no grounds for the resumption of war, and Iraq has no alternative but to submit to a complete implementation of Resolution 598 and to withdraw from our territory, an area over 2,000 square km. Of course, there is a good possibility of a reduction in tension between us and Iraq. Perhaps, in view of the bitter experience of global arrogance in this war and the failure of the Iraqi regime to realize the objectives of global arrogance, the arrogant powers would try to solve Iraq's difficulties, because Iraq is a vulnerable country and is surrounded on all sides by Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Arabia, and Kuwait, and has no outlet to the sea. Economically, Iraq has become very weak and has accumulated a foreign debt of \$100 billion, thanks to the 8-year war. It lost 500,000 men, 2,000,000 people were wounded, and 10 cities were left in ruins.

This is the outcome of the 8-year war for the Iraqi regime. On the other hand, the unclear ideological philosophy of the Ba'th Party cannot reassure global arrogance at all. Let us not forget that before the war the Iraqi regime considered the regime of Saudi Arabia the most reactionary regime among the Arab states; that it had claims on Arab states of the Persian Gulf. It still lays claim to 50 percent of Kuwaiti territory. On no account can global arrogance embark on long-term investments in this regime. It is highly probable that in view of our firm determination, the high morale of the Islamic Republic, or other reasons, it would submit to talks and withdraw from our territory. Tension would be reduced as a result.

New Iraqi Peace Proposals Ridiculed

LD0601195890 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT
6 Jan 90

["Commentary—Iraq: Saddam's Latest Gimmick Designed To Overshadow Real Issues"—IRNA headline]

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 6, IRNA—observers believe that the Iraqi ruler's Friday [5 January] statement on a new 'peace plan' is another gimmick to divert attention from the real hurdle U.N. Resolution 598 has run into, and the side which continues to hinder its enforcement.

Saddam Husayn's feigned opening of a new door for an 'honourable peace' with Islamic Iran, as announced by Baghdad radio, is nothing new. As a matter of fact, his clever mixing of words, for swapping all sick and disabled POWs, 'and all those taken captive till the end of 1982' raises further questions as to his actual intentions.

In his latest publicity stunt, the Ba'thist ruler also suggested that officials of the two countries meet in each other's capitals to reach, what he termed 'a common understanding' on the contents of the U.N. Resolution 598, which ironically he was the first to accept, and which he himself continues to procrastinate.

Saddam's other proposals include 'opening of the borders and offices of the national airlines in the two capitals to enable visits—of all places—to the holy shrines in Iran and Iraq.'

Unbelievable? It seems Saddam Husayn has turned pious overnight, after a decade of blood-letting in both Iraq and Iran.

But, as observers are quick to point out, the 'change of heart' conceals the actual ploy, and the Iraqi regime intends to insinuate that its new proposals are a step forward, when the reality proves to the contrary. The more so when one takes into account Iran's repeated emphasis on exchange of all POWs simultaneous with Iraqi troop withdrawal from its soil.

The fact is—as the world is well aware—Iran has always favoured the exchange of sick and disabled POWs, and in most cases despite Baghdad's failure to honour its words, has unilaterally released a number of them.

The Islamic Republic's latest humanitarian gesture was on the eve of the new Christian year when 50 Iraqi POWs including 5 Christians were set free.

The question is why Iraq is eager to swap only those POWs that were captured till the end of 1982, and not those captured in the years after?

The answer is quite simple for those who have followed the course of the 8 year long Iraqi aggression. The majority of the Iraqi POWs were taken in the years preceding 1982, when a large part of Iranian soil was

liberated from Ba'thist occupation, and Saddam Husayn desperately needs their release to satisfy his fancy.

He likes to imagine himself as the 'winner' of his aggression, but the high figures of Iraqi POWs speak otherwise and disprove his claims.

The Iraqi ruler's second proposal that officials of the two countries meet in each other's capital, sounds even more weird, and gives the wrong idea that both parties are responsible for the procrastination of the Security Council resolution.

Only one side has continued to procrastinate the U.N. mediated negotiations, and all fingers point towards the regime in Baghdad, therefore the sole solution is for Iraq to revise its stands.

Ba'thist Iraq, during the 5 rounds of talks held following the August 20, 1988 ceasefire, has not made the least change in its unprincipled outlook and instead each time has thrown up a fresh obstacle in the way of the peace process.

It has even failed to agree with the U.N. secretary general who follows the progress of Resolution 598 as an impartial observer.

Contrary to international regulations, Baghdad intends to bring to the negotiation table the unalterable, permanent and irrevocable 1975 accord which clearly specifies the two countries' borders, which Saddam Husayn, despite the fact that he was a signatory, wants to alter.

By scheming to dispute the common sovereignty of the two sides over the Arvand River, Saddam is vainly trying to achieve what he miserably failed to gain in the war he imposed on the nascent Islamic state.

In doing so, the Iraqi ruler is ignoring the fact that world public opinion has already identified the party hindering the peace talks, and his new proposals are neither a positive response nor a step forward.

However, regarding the proposed opening of borders and offices of the respective airlines in each other's capitals, it is enough to note that Iranians still remember that the three Iranian aircraft hijacked to Iraq have not yet been returned, and they also cannot forget the maltreatment of Iranian pilgrims in the past at the hands of Ba'thist security forces in the holy cities.

UN Informed of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0501094890 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT
5 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 5, IRNA—Iran has informed the U.N. secretary-general of 50 cases of ceasefire violations made by the Iraqi regime between September 5-16.

In a letter handed over to the U.N. chief by Iranian U.N. mission Thursday, Iran said the Iraqi ceasefire violations included carrying out of night surveillance operations.

digging of canals and setting up of barbed wire fences, watch towers and communication pylons.

The letter also figured out the occupation of two trenches in Qasr-e Shirin region, Western Iran by five Iraqi agents on September 7 and the unloading of two truck loads of ammunition in Chazzabeh, southern fronts, by Iraqi troops one day later.

The letter is to be published as a document by the Security Council.

Oil Minister Comments on Oil Price Increase

*LD0701155190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Text] Following the rise in oil prices on world markets, Oil Minister Aqazadeh spoke to our reporter, Hafezi, today about the reasons for the increase in the price of oil and said: The severely cold weather in the United States, the low rainfall in Europe which has reduced the possibility of using more hydroelectric energy, and the decision of the recent OPEC session to set a minimum price of \$18 for every barrel of oil are some of the factors behind the rise in the price of oil on world markets. Let me draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Hafezi] What is the effect of the current rise in the price of oil on oil-exporting countries and, in view of the fact that some countries, and specifically Saudi Arabia, have announced they will increase production level and, in practice, oil exports. What advice do you have in this regard for OPEC and for oil-exporting countries?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In my opinion, OPEC members should not be hasty in the face of the rapid rise in price and they should not think that, as a result of the price rise, they should produce more, or, if they do not have a favorable view of the high prices, that they should take measures to weaken the market.

We are at a juncture which constitutes a new season for OPEC, and with the cooperation of OPEC members it will be possible to have a good price in the market. And I propose, I recommend OPEC members show restraint and try to adhere to the aims affirmed in the recent OPEC session, and raise any points that they have in mind in the next session.

[Hafezi] What is the current level of production and the price of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil? And please tell us how the current rise in the price of oil will effect Iran's revenue?

[Aqazadeh] Under the current circumstances, from the beginning of the new Christian year, we have set our production at 3.15 million barrels and that is our production level now. Our exports for this month, that is the month of Dey [month beginning 22 December], average about 2.5 million barrels net. And that is a very good

figure for this month and we predict that we will stay at this level in the coming months.

From the point of view of revenue, we have enjoyed very good conditions this year [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and, in comparison with the previous year, our revenue has risen by more than 30 percent and, with regard to this year's budget, we have a 100-percent fulfillment. And, in addition to this, because of the improved market, we considered it appropriate that we also have an amount of projected oil sales [pish-forush] and we have had a very good figure for projected oil sales on the market. Conditions as a whole have led to our having a very good income, especially this month when our exports have been at the level of 2.5 million barrels and when the prices, the minimum price for our oil, will be \$19 dollars; more than \$19. That will maintain the country's revenue at a very good level.

[Hafezi] Yes. Thank you. [end recording]

Abadan Oil Plant Reopens; Demand To Be Met

*LD0501144590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] Renovation and reconstruction work on Abadan refinery's No 60 vacuum distillation plant, which was severely damaged in the imposed war, was completed and the plant was commissioned during a ceremony today.

According to an IRNA report, with the commissioning of the distillation plant by Oil Ministry specialists and workers, raw material requirements of the 15th Sha'ban furnace oil-distillation plant and the oil-manufacturing unit, to be commissioned soon, will be met.

During the commissioning ceremony, which was attended by a number of Abadan officials, the governor of Abadan, and head of Abadan refinery stressed the importance of the role played by refineries in the country's economy and described how the plant was rebuilt.

With the commissioning of the refinery's oil manufacturing unit, which will take place soon, the country's engine oil demand will be met and the outflow of foreign currency will also be prevented.

Tanker Company Chief on 'Khark-5' Accident

*LD0901213190 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT
9 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—The oil leakage from the storm-damaged Iranian tanker Khark-5 has been completely controlled and the ship will sail towards a standard port for necessary repairs, managing director of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) said here today.

Mohammad Suri told IRNA that the 284,000-ton super tanker left Khark Island for northern Europe on November 11 with 274,000 tons of crude oil.

But on November 18, off Canary Islands, it ran into a severe storm with an intensity of 100 nautical miles, as a result of which part of its side elevation was torn away and thrown on the deck sparking an explosion in the fourth tank, followed by a series of other blasts, Suri said. A Dutch salvage company was called in to control the fire, he added. [passage omitted]

Suri said as a result of the opening in the fourth tank an undetermined amount of crude leaked into the sea, 'however, foreign reports on technical defects have been exaggerated and are unreal,' he said, noting that the oil leakage has been controlled. [passage omitted]

He said the Moroccan Government, even though the slick is far from its coastal waters, has launched a wide-scale propaganda tirade and called for financial aid from some countries with the aim of hollow financial claims against Iran.

'Taking political and economic advantages seem to be behind the claim which would bear no fruit for that government,' Suri made it clear. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere Suri said NITC fleet with 60 tankers ranging from 25,000 to 400,000 tons has a total capacity of 5.6 million tons, and is capable of carrying daily 600,000 barrels of oil. 'We intend to expand the fleet further,' he added.

Behzad Nabavi Appointed Adviser to Khatami

LD0801141390 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT
8 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—Behzad Nabavi was appointed advisor to Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, the ministry announced Monday. Nabavi was minister of heavy industries in Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet.

On August 16 a number of Majles deputies called for Nabavi's dismissal on charges of involvement in a multi-million dollar corruption case. But after long discussions, the Majles rejected the motion and gave him a vote of confidence.

Questions about the fairness of the inquiry, lack of evidence linking him to the corruption case and Nabavi's reputation as a competent and long-serving member of the cabinet tipped the balance in his favor. The result of the voting was 132 for, 73 against, and 21 abstentions.

In the Majles by-election last month, Nabavi ran as a candidate from Tehran but failed to gain the required vote.

Meanwhile, Morteza Haji was appointed deputy minister for tourist and pilgrimage affairs of the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

RESALAT Views Recent International Events

NC0801212490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
31 Dec 89 p 12

[Editorial: "An Exceptional Situation on the International Scene"]

[Text] The image we have of the world and of the consecutive developments that have taken place seems to be different if viewed in the light of the situation before and after the "Malta" conference.

The downfall of Ceausescu, the last dregs of socialism in Europe, and the U.S. aggression in Panama are two sides of the same coin, which could be considered the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet talks.

Knowledgeable sources are of the opinion that at this conference certain other agreements were reached regarding Iran and Syria, Iran and Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, and finally regarding Lebanon's active struggle against Israel and the United States.

Superpowers do not usually reach a consensus. If they do, they cannot easily impose their views on nations. However, it is evident that developments are taking place in the world swiftly and that if we ignore them, it will be difficult to make amends later.

The events and phenomena are occurring with such rapidity that if the foreign diplomacy of the country is not coordinated with similar speed, it will inflict irrevocable harm on the Islamic Republic in the field of international politics.

In conditions when Europe is moving toward a "common house" or a united Europe of 1992 and dozens of accords and regional pacts are being forged, the Islamic Republic of Iran with its sphere of influence among nations, especially in the world of Islam, has emerged as the only power which is not ready to pay ransom to any of the domineering powers. To preserve this international reputation with nations and governments requires attention to numerous nuances and subtleties which domestic issues and differences must not be allowed to eclipse.

At present, our soldiers are battling on the front lines of diplomacy. According to the leader of the Islamic revolution, "The soldier on the front lines must not be attacked." The guardian of the Muslims' cause asked: Why do a few people not comprehend these words?

Since its inception, the Islamic Republic has attained unprecedented success in the international arena. One of the most prominent successes was the shattering of the political equilibrium of the world. If today we are witnessing the dismemberment of political and military blocs, an intense leaning toward religion in various societies, and so on, it is because of the new thought and pattern which has been set before the nations. This new thinking and diplomacy has shown that with the passage

of time, the new thinking and diplomacy's tensile strength, firmness, and steadfastness become more and more evident.

The exhortations of the imam, may God be pleased with him, during his productive lifetime urging the strengthening of the Foreign Ministry and repeatedly stressing its support affirm that our young diplomacy should not be harmed.

It is here that we can comprehend the depth of the categorical forewarning of the leader of the Islamic revolution. The complicated approach on the part of the young diplomacy of the Islamic Republic toward the deceitful and treacherous world of international politics is such that today every kind of explanation regarding our *modus operandi* or the mention of the secrets of the Islamic Republic would only benefit the enemy.

We hope that the pens and tongues, especially of the esteemed Majles deputies, will become aware more than ever of the sensitivity of the situation and of our exceptional position in the field of international politics and that they will exercise the necessary vigilance in their approach to the foreign policy of the system.

New Provincial Governors Appointed

*LD0701174390 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] The most significant international and domestic events were discussed in this afternoon's cabinet session, which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

During the session, as recommended by the interior minister and approved by the cabinet, Messrs Mo'meni and Seyyed Mohammad Vaqefi were appointed governors general of Markazi and Esfahan Provinces, respectively. Messrs Karbaschi and Taha'i, the former governors general of Esfahan and Markazi provinces, were praised.

Nuri Introduces Mo'meni

*LD0801144690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 8 Jan 90*

[Text] Mr Nuri, the interior minister, arrived in Arak this morning in order to introduce Mr Masih Mo'meni, the new Central Province governor general. On arriving in Arak, he went to the cemetery of the town's martyrs and paid his respects to the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war.

According to the Central News Unit, the interior minister delivered a speech at this morning's joint parade ceremonies of Central Province military and security forces. He stressed the precise implementation of the commands of the eminent leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and referring to the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution, he said: Today also, the most important goal of our Islamic revolution is precisely the

implementation of the commands of pure Moham-madan Islam; and what is taking shape and will take shape in the Islamic Republic is based on Islam.

The interior minister then attended the province's administrative council [shora-ye 'Edari] where he expressed gratitude for the efforts of Mr Taha'i, the previous governor general of Central Province, and introduced Mr Masih Mo'meni as the new governor general of the province. He also honored the eternal memory of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified, stressed that his path would be continued and, referring to the period of reconstruction in the country, he said: One of the blessings of the Islamic revolution is that it benefits from creative popular forces, brilliant and outstanding talents and immense divine resources through the correct use of which we must implement the lofty aims of the Islamic revolution in the course of the country's reconstruction.

Majles Approves Increase in Defense Budget

*LD0701183590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] Deputy Speaker Bayat chaired this afternoon's Majles open session. [passage omitted] According to our correspondent's report, during the session proposals by various Majles committees were ratified. [passage omitted] In accordance with today's Majles approval, the ceiling for the defense budget was raised to 400 billion rials.

Karaj, Kashan Election Results Approved

*LD0701182390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 7 Jan 90*

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, during its session today the Council of Guardians, after investigation, approved the results of the by-elections held in Karaj and Kashan constituencies for the third term of the Majles. On the basis of this report, the task of investigating the files of other constituencies was postponed to future sessions.

Major Drugs Gangs Broken Up in Border Provinces

*LD0801125490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] In the course of two separate operations undertaken by the Islamic Revolution Committee in Bakhtaran and Sistan va Baluchestan Province, two big international narcotics gangs were broken up.

Mr Za'eri, the Islamic Revolution Committee deputy for intelligence and operations, described the operations to a gathering of reporters this morning and said: In a series of intelligence and surveillance and pursuit operations by the Islamic Revolution Committee, a big international narcotics gang, which was active in the countries of the region, especially Turkey, was identified. Fourteen members of the gang were arrested, and 13 revolvers and

6 vehicles were found and seized. He added: The gang has so far confessed to the provision, transportation, and distribution of 7,000 kg of opium and 800 kg of morphine. Efforts to arrest the other members of the gang are continuing.

The Islamic Revolution Committee deputy for intelligence and operations referred to the arrest of the members of another international gang on the Iran-Pakistan border, and said: From a cargo of narcotics which was being transported by smugglers from Kordi Jangal in Afghanistan to Pakistan and Iran, 1,400 kg of a variety of narcotic substances, 30 boxes of cartridges, and a number of light and semi-heavy weapons were also found and seized. [passage omitted]

Iranian Toilers Radio on Anti-Montazeri Protest

LD0801153290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The lackeys of the top figures in charge of the regime have embarked on another onslaught against Ayatollah Montazeri. The mass media reported that 2 days ago, in the city of Qom, after the Friday prayers ceremonies had ended, a crowd of Khamene'i supporters held demonstrations in front of the house of Ayatollah Montazeri and shouted slogans against the latter.

Ayatollah Montazeri, who was dismissed from his position as heir to Khomeyni after criticizing the regime of the crimes it was committing in the prisons, has up to now been subjected to various forms of pressure from the ruling authorities. The new attacks against him from the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani camp is not unrelated to increasing tensions within and around the ruling clique.

***Talks With USSR on Dam Construction on Aras River**

90OI0102E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 89 p 18

[Text] Tabriz—KEYHAN correspondent—The first round of talks concerning building two dams over the Aras River were held in Tabriz between officials of the Soviet Union and the Province of East Azarbaijan. During the talks a preliminary statement was signed on how to follow up on the talks.

According to our correspondent, a delegation of officials from the Soviet Ministry of Energy went to Tabriz to hold talks on the building of the Khoda Afarin and Qezel Qel'eh dams. At a meeting with the governor-general of East Azarbaijan and officials of the regional water organization they discussed and exchanged views on the relevant cooperation and agreed that in the event of agreement implementation of this project would begin next year.

During these talks, the chief of the Soviet delegation expressed the hope that a treaty of cooperation would be signed in the next few days and that the way would be opened for expanded relations and cooperation between the two countries, especially Soviet Azarbaijan and Iran.

During these talks emphasis was placed on connecting energy networks in the two countries, energy exchanges, scientific, agricultural, and industrial cooperation, as well as travel back and forth for people living in Azarbaijan, and the creation of trade centers for the exchange of goods.

The governor-general of East Azarbaijan described the first phase of talks between the Soviet Union and East Azarbaijan as useful, and he again invited the prime minister and the delegation from the government of the Republic of Soviet Azarbaijan to visit this province.

***Four Lebanese 'Mercenaries' Freed 5 Dec**

90OI0102F Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Dec 89 p 12

[Text] News Department—Four Lebanese mercenaries who were taken prisoner at the fronts of Iraq's war against Iran were freed yesterday in the presence of a representative of the International Red Cross, a representative sent by Walid Junblatt, and a representative of the secretary of the Supreme Defense Council.

Our correspondent reports that yesterday, escorted by several officials and representatives of the International Red Cross, the country saw the departure of prisoners who, using weapons given to them by world imperialism and blindly following the policies of the imperialists of the age, had fired on the nation and attacked the young people whose only sin was their desire for Islam.

Yesterday four Lebanese prisoners left our country with regret and shame clearly visible on their faces.

These four Lebanese prisoners were released at the request of the Lebanese government and with the agreement of officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as testimony to the Islamic Republic of Iran's faithful observance of the provisions of Resolution 598. This living documentation is a testimony to the truthfulness, commitment, and cooperation of a government that has been unfairly criticized from all sides for 8 years.

Our correspondent writes in his report: These four Lebanese prisoners, who were captured by Islamic combatants during the "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operation, were all self-employed, serving as volunteers in Iraq's People's Army. They claimed to have been inducted into the Iraqi regime's People's Army by force because they were required to serve 3 months in this army before being allowed to work in Iraq. All those who had come to Iraq from other countries, especially Egypt, were in their situation. These prisoners, while praising and thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its praiseworthy treatment of prisoners, asked the Iranian nation to forgive them.

These four Lebanese prisoners, with gifts from the father of a martyr, including a photograph and mementos of the martyr, left Iran on a flight of the Iran-Cyprus Airway.

Our correspondent reports that as the ceremonies continued Mr Ruh-Navaz, representative of the secretary of the Supreme Defense Council, answered questions from correspondents at a press conference. At the outset he said: So far 49 prisoners of various nationalities have been released, including 15 Sudanese, eight Lebanese, 16 Egyptians, and six Somalis.

Likewise during this period in 20 sessions 1306 handicapped and injured Iraqi prisoners were freed. In return, the Iraqi regime, despite its false claims, has released only 946 of our prisoners, of whom 496 were non-military civilian residents of border cities and villages, and under the Geneva Convention civilians and non-military people are not considered prisoners by any principle, meaning that in reality the Iraqi regime has released only 450 Iranian prisoners in return for 1406 Iraqi prisoners released.

As the press conference continued, Mr Pasquale Jacquier, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross from Switzerland, praised the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his optimism on the future of these measures. He said: We will try to be able to take positive steps in the future to exchange more prisoners.

During these ceremonies, our correspondent also spoke briefly with Mr Ramzi-Safa, representative of Mr Walid Junblatt, chief of the Lebanese Druze Progressive Socialist Party. He said: On behalf of myself and others I express thanks for the humane measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you know, because of 14 years of war in Lebanon, the people of this country go to other Arab countries to work, and for this reason a group of Lebanese came into the Iraqi army in this very way, and we are very sorry and regretful of this.

***Hezbollahis Must Have More Responsibility**

90010102D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Dec 89 p 18

[Text] Qom—KEYHAN Correspondent—Ayatollah Jannati, a member of the Council of Guardians and temporary Friday imam of Qom, said in his Friday prayers sermon this week: The preservation and continuation of the revolution is only possible through support for the Partisans of God [Hezbollahis] and those who have endured the most toil during the struggles and the imposed war. Therefore in all organizations and everywhere in the country this dear class of people must be allowed to speak and to assume primary responsibilities.

Giving the second Qom Friday prayer for this week at the Jerusalem prayer site, he added: Unfortunately, it is currently felt that the partisans of God, these children and owners of the revolution, have been treated unkindly by some people and are gradually withdrawing.

These people, more than anyone, must be respected and visible, but every time they express themselves on national affairs, instead of support and encouragement, they are obstructed by some people, and this is not

something that has happened only one or two times. In many offices, factories, and other places, the Islamic societies, because of giving reminders on current issues and because of enjoining good or prohibiting evil, have been dispersed and have not been allowed to operate for various reasons.

The chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization stressed that the work of the Islamic societies has not been without error in some cases, and he discussed artistic activities. He said: We cannot expect the deviated artists of the past to work in the area of Islamic art, in the sense of art acceptable to Islam. Unfortunately, however, we see that Muslim artists, who work frugally and with the least expectations to do the most, are not supported either, and in many cases obstacles are put in their way. The people who have gone to the fronts and given martyrs must be trained in various fields and employed so that in the future we will not see the deviated culture of the West, of irresponsibility, consumerism, and indifference, promoted in our society under various names and by means of film and music. Our Muslim people have shown that they will not tolerate a few people leading the nation towards the idolatrous culture of the past, and they have shown their dissatisfaction in petitions, declarations, and statements.

Ayatollah Jannati noted that in order to export the revolution to the entire world the forces who support the revolution must be strengthened. He added: These religious feelings must be kept alive, and if we want to call the world to Islam, we must pay more attention to these matters than before. We must not allow the supporters of the revolution to become discouraged.

The temporary Friday Imam of Qom also offered condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Hasan 'Askari (peace be upon him) and the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dastgheyb on the occasion of the second anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian uprising against Israel. He discussed the crimes of the usurper Jerusalem regime against the Muslim people of Palestine. He said: This great movement began based on piety and the feeling of responsibility by the oppressed people of Palestine, despairing of people who beat their breasts with stones for Palestine but who sit and negotiate with the enemy in order to fill their pockets with American dollars. We hope that one day these oppressed people, who have no place of refuge in the world, will celebrate victory.

He then noted the arrival of Student's Day. He said: We are in need of believing and committed students, who are the nation's academic insurance of the future; we must take this matter into consideration. It is necessary to be serious about academic growth and piety in the area of worship, and in this regard the relationship between the seminaries and the universities is more important than in the past. In this matter, recently the leader of the Islamic revolution has given the necessary directive to study the problems concerning the presence of clergymen in the universities.

***Note Signed With UN on Aid to Afghan Refugees**

90OI0102B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] At the conclusion of talks yesterday afternoon between Iranian officials and Sadruddin Agha Khan, coordinator of United Nations aid to Afghan refugees, a note of mutual understanding was signed for cooperation with regard to the Afghan refugees.

According to IRNA, Manuchehr Motakki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, signed for Iran and Agha Khan signed this note of mutual understanding.

According to this note of mutual understanding, an agreement was reached to open a coordination office in Tehran.

In a talk, Manuchehr Motakki said: Because of this statement of understanding, arrangements have been made to cooperate more widely in the implementation of projects to aid Afghan brothers, and Iran's role in carrying out the responsibilities of the coordination office has been increased in a specific way.

The deputy foreign minister for international affairs continued: Likewise, it was agreed that to carry out plans, joint meetings will be held monthly in Tehran attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, and the coordination office.

Sadruddin Agha Khan also gave a talk discussing UN activities to help Afghan emigrants and refugees.

He said: The United Nations has an extensive program to return Afghans to their country.

***Nurbakhsh Wants Non-Oil Purchases by Pakistan**

90OI0102C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Economic Service—In a meeting with the Pakistani ambassador, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance asked Pakistan to buy more of Iran's non-petroleum goods.

As reported by the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance: Tanvir Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran, met and spoke at the conclusion of his mission with Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance.

During this meeting, the Pakistani ambassador discussed the close and brotherly cooperation between the two countries and called for expanded relations in all areas, including cooperation in the framework of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and expanding this organization. He also advocated diversification of goods exchanged between the two nations and efforts to establish an equal balance of trade.

Our country's minister of economic affairs and finance affairs also discussed the current volume of trade between the two countries and the commercial imbalance between the two. He asked that Pakistan try to buy more non-petroleum goods from Iran, and he expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would expand as much as possible in other areas, in view of the existing conditions.

***Import Restrictions on Certain Items Lifted**

90OI0102G Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
10 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Restrictions have been lifted on the import, without the transfer of foreign exchange, of spare parts for light and heavy vehicles, printing paper (70 grams and heavier), school paper, photocopy paper, map paper, cardboard, sackcloth, and embroidery frames and thread.

KEYHAN's economic correspondent reports that 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, our country's minister of commerce, announced this this morning at a radio and television press conference.

He also added: Henceforth activity in the trade, production, and commissions sectors will be carried out with a commercial card.

Likewise, as of 10 Dey in the current year [31 December 1989] imports without the transfer of foreign exchange will be permissible only with a commercial card. The minister of commerce added: Formerly a great deal of time was consumed issuing a commercial card, but today we intend to shorten the time required to issue and extend commercial cards.

He added: It now takes a maximum of 5 days to issue a commercial card, while in the past this period was 10 days. Likewise, a production sector card is now issued in 7 days, while this took 30 days in the past.

He added: The issuance of a merchant card takes 1 month, while it took 90 days in the past.

He added: It will take 30 days to issue a commission broker's card, and 15 days to extend one.

He said that the total number of commercial, merchant, and commission broker's cards issued so far by the Ministry of Commerce is 4,252. He added: Of this number, 1,577 were new cards and 2,686 were extensions.

It is necessary to mention that of the new cards, 941 were issued in Tehran, the remainder in other provinces.

Continuing the interview, the minister of commerce added: As of 10 Dey in the current year [31 December 1989], all imports without the transfer of foreign exchange will be permitted with only a commercial card. In guidelines issued last year, the requirement of a commercial card was lifted for importers. The decision

has been made today, after a year, to require once more the possession of a commercial card to import goods.

Therefore, those who intend to be active importing must definitely have a commercial card.

Vahaji continued: The total number of importers in the previous year, including real persons and legal entities, was 19,091. Of this number, 16,508 imported without commercial cards, while the remainder had commercial cards.

This total included 22,522 files with an order ceiling value of \$1.772 billion. Of this amount, \$1.445 billion in registered orders was authorized for export, and in this process \$551 million in goods have so far been imported into the country.

He noted: In its recent decisions the government has taken measures with regard to foreign exchange so that those importing primary materials will have peace of mind in every respect.

In conclusion he added: The Ministry of Commerce previously made an announcement concerning goods that importers can bring into the country without the transfer of foreign exchange. Restrictions have been lifted on the import, without the transfer of foreign exchange, of spare parts for light and heavy vehicles, printing paper (70 grams and heavier), school paper, photocopy paper, map paper, cardboard, sackcloth, and embroidery frames and thread.

Vahaji also added: The draft of the Export Import Regulations Bill written by the Ministry of Commerce with the cooperation of other ministries, will be published in the coming days soliciting opinions. He called upon all experts, professors, unions, cooperatives, and merchants to study the draft of the bill and make known their criticism and suggestions.

***Law Gives Honorable Exemption to Guardians**

90010102H Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
7 Dec 89 p 4

[Text] Tabriz—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent: Based on the new proposed military service law, in order to eliminate administrative formalities, henceforth honorable exemptions will be given to officials qualified for guardian exemptions.

Colonel Razmju, chief of the Military Service Office, in a press interview, made the above statement and added: According to decisions taken in the military service law and based on guidelines prepared, all males over the legal age up to 50 years of age are considered eligible and must clarify the status of their military service obligation. Otherwise, they will not be able to solve their daily problems easily. He added: Based on the same decisions it has been announced to all military service districts that they must reduce administrative formalities as much as possible, and those reporting for military service will be able to do their work in the maximum

amount of time, and it was decided that medical and honorable exemptions and certificates of eligibility will be issued for those eligible in 1 day.

Concerning the honorable exemption he said: This exemption will be granted only when a certificate of guardianship is presented as documentation of the claim, and then the necessary investigations will be carried out.

He added: If, in the investigation, the claim of guardianship is proved to be false, the party concerned will be treated as a fugitive from military service and punished accordingly. In conclusion, Colonel Razmju discussed the combining of public service councils, the public service branch office, and the military service precinct office to facilitate the work and economize on personnel. He said: In this regard efforts have been made so that with regard to organization there will be no more than one military service office in each city, thereby economizing on personnel and budget funds and expediting the work of the people.

Correction to Khamene'i Speech on Islamic Values

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Khamene'i Speaks on Country's Islamic Values," published in the 4 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 51:

column one, last paragraph, only sentence: ...of the revolution.

After the mourning services for Her Eminence Fatima Zahra, Mr Movahhedi-Savaji, Majles deputy for Saveh, said: The victory, stability, and glorious continuation of the Islamic revolution of Iran are all due to the principle of vice regency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. He added: Because of the deep faith of the Muslim people of Iran in that principle their absolute obedience to Imam Khomeyni, the late leader of the world Muslims, brought victory and continuity to the Islamic revolution and revived Islam all over the world.

Today, the Islamic ummah have entrusted the banner of that great struggle to the imam's best pupil His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the vice regent [vali-e amr] of the Muslims, and consider it their duty to obey him. For obeying the leader of Islam is synonymous with obeying God and the lord of the age [Imam Mahdi... (supplying omitted passage, deleting editorial notation)]

Pakistan

French Minister of State Meets Yaqub Khan

BK0901141490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The minister of state at the French Foreign Office, Mrs Edwise Avice, had a meeting with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on matters of common interest,

including bilateral relations. Expansion of economic cooperation between Pakistan and France was also discussed during the meeting.

Calls on Ishaq Khan

*BK0901161190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] Mrs Edwise Avice, minister of state at the French Foreign Office, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The two exchanged views on bilateral matters, particularly economic cooperation and international affairs.

The president said that the atmosphere for foreign investment in Pakistan is very good and that Pakistan is pursuing a very liberal policy on setting up joint ventures. Mrs Avice assured the president that her country is interested in further promoting economic cooperation with Pakistan. The recent changes in East Europe were also reviewed during the meeting.

The president apprised the French minister of state of the apprehension in Third World countries like Pakistan about the possible change in priorities of Western countries which might adversely affect these Third World countries. Mrs Avice assured the president that France and other Western European nations will pay attention to the developmental needs of Third World countries. [passage omitted]

France To Provide \$140 Million in Assistance

*BK2912030389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Dec 89*

[Text] Under an agreement signed in Islamabad, France will provide aid worth \$140 million to Pakistan. The aid will be used for projects in the fields of energy, telecommunications, health, and civil aviation. France will also provide training facilities for civil aviation personnel.

Air India Plane Lands in Karachi in Bomb Scare

*BK1001090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] An Air India flight from Paris to Bombay with 284 passengers including the 21-member crew made an unscheduled landing at Karachi airport early this morning because of a bomb scare. Air India sources said in New Delhi that all the passengers and the crew are safe. Intensive security checkup of the plane is going on at Karachi airport. They further said that the flight would now reach Delhi tomorrow instead of its scheduled time today.

Bhutto on Midterm Elections, Sind, Afghanistan

*BK1001091590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that in the general elections the people granted the present

government the right to complete its tenure according to the Constitution. In her interview to PBC [Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation], the prime minister said she herself will not hold midterm elections, but if the opposition insists on it she will be ready. She said we are from the people and we have no fear of going to them for one more election. Benazir Bhutto has said the opposition wants to dissolve the assemblies and to create disorder and confusion, but they will not be allowed to do so.

In reply to a question, she said her government has ended the confrontation between the Army and the people and has also ended the divisive tendencies.

Referring to the people's programs, Benazir Bhutto said efforts are being made to involve the opposition party members from the National Assembly in the programs. She rejected the allegation that the objective of this program is to benefit the Pakistan People's Party workers.

Referring to the law and order situation in Sind, she said there is 40 percent improvement in the situation.

On the situation in Afghanistan, the prime minister said she is in favor of a political solution in that country.

Opposition Leaders Protest Government TV News

*BK1001005690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Jan 90*

[Text] Members of Parliament belonging to the Combined Opposition Parties [COP] staged a demonstration in front of the Islamabad Center of the Pakistan Television [PTV] this afternoon. These members of the National Assembly and the Senate marched in a procession from the parliament building to PTV.

The procession was led by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, COP chief; Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, Islamic Democratic Alliance parliamentary party leader; Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, president of the Pakistan Democratic Party; Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Awami National Party leader; Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan leader; Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, deputy parliamentary leader of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam [JUI]-Fazlur Rahman group; and Shahid Ahmad Munkir of the JUI-Darkhwasti group.

The parliamentarians staged a sit-in at the gate of the Pakistan Television complex, burned copies of certain newspapers, and raised slogans against the television, radio, and some newspapers.

They handed over a memorandum that said that PTV should not be used for partisan purposes; it should stop the propaganda to project the opposition in parliament in a negative light. They said the opposition leaders are not given the opportunity to present their views on television. They also alleged that the analysis and current affairs programs are biased, that incidents of crime in Punjab are magnified, and that Westernized entertainment values are projected over the television.

Talking to newsmen after the demonstration, Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, rejected the allegations leveled by the opposition leaders. He said complete freedom has been given to the media and no instructions are issued by the government to the television or other organizations regarding the news. He said the news items are included in the news bulletins according to their news value.

Saeed Awan pointed out that crime rate in Punjab has increased many fold, generating a sense of fear and insecurity among the people. These crimes have their own news value.

Answering a question, Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan said permission has been granted to set up a television

network in the private sector, but the permission to establish a separate television station by any province cannot be granted as it will amount to turning Pakistan into a confederation instead of a federation.

New Oil, Gas Reserve Discovered in Attock District

*BK3112160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Dec 89*

[Text] A new oil and gas reserve has been discovered near (Fateh Jhang) in Attock District. This was stated by Jahangir Badar, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said the new well will become operational within 11 months, producing 1,000 barrels of oil per day.